

At White House smoke but no fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fire engines screeched outside the White House on Sunday, but no fire broke out. A spokesman said the fire department was called to the White House after a fire alarm sounded in the East Wing. The fire department arrived and found no fire. The alarm was traced to an overheated air conditioner in the East Wing. The fire department also found a fire in a telephone line in the area. The fire was quickly extinguished. The fire department also found a fire in a telephone line in the area. The fire was quickly extinguished.

U.S. teachers still white and female

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's schools are more racially mixed, but have remained predominantly white, female and prepared for middle-class students, according to a new report. The report, by the U.S. Department of Education, says that the majority of teachers are white and female. It also says that the majority of students are white and middle-class. The report also says that the majority of students are white and middle-class.

Abandoned boy gets Japanese citizenship

TOKYO (AP) — A boy who was abandoned in Japan in 1945 has been granted Japanese citizenship. The boy, who was found in a forest in 1945, was adopted by a Japanese family. He was granted citizenship after a long legal process. The boy is now 50 years old and lives in Japan.

Israel destroys Palestinian home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli police clashed with Palestinian youths in Arab East Jerusalem Monday during the demolition of a Palestinian house allegedly built without permission. Police used truncheons to disperse the dozens of young Palestinians who gathered to protest the demolition, which was ordered by the interior ministry. Three hours later, only rubble marked the spot where the eight-room house had been built two years ago in the Al Tour district on the Mount of Olives. "They did not show us the demolition order, they did not give us enough time to get our furniture out, we got no chance to take the matter to court," said the owner, Yusef Abu Ghannam. His three daughters, Mirvat, 15, Manal, 13, and 11-year-old Ammi, burst into tears when they returned from school to see a bulldozer mounted with a giant pneumatic drill destroying their home. Mr. Abu Ghannam threatened to carry out a suicide attack in revenge. "I am going to blow myself up in the middle of Jaffa street" in West Jerusalem, he screamed.

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King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders exchanged views on several issues of concern to Jordan and Egypt. King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak also discussed means of unifying efforts exerted to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. The two leaders stressed the need to continue consultations and coordination between the two countries to serve Arab interests and protect the rights of the region's peoples.

Trial of New York plots begins

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The trial of an Egyptian Muslim cleric and 11 other Muslims accused of plotting a terrorism campaign in the United States opened here Monday in a federal courtroom under tight security. The defendants, described in prosecution papers as members of the Islamic Jihad organization, are accused of planning a "war of urban terrorism" to derail the Middle East peace process and weaken U.S. support of Israel.

Russian official wants Iraq sanctions lifted

MOSCOW (R) — The leader of Russia's lower house of parliament called on Monday for all sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait to be lifted. "Ivan Rybkin believes that all economic and political consequences of the 'Persian' Gulf crisis should be removed as Iraq has accepted all U.N. and OSCE (Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe) resolutions," the State Duma (lower house) press service said in a statement. The statement was issued after Mr. Rybkin met Saadi Mehdi Saleh, Iraq's parliamentary speaker, for talks on lifting the sanctions.

Shohat proposes dropping tax

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Monday he would recommend that the government drop a hugely unpopular tax on share profits. Trading on Israel's stock exchange rose by 5.4 per cent after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered a change to the law, which came into force on Jan. 1. The tax had depressed trading and provoked a row between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Shohat after the finance minister confessed it was unworkable. Mr. Rabin ordered a change to the law, which came into force on Jan. 1. The tax had depressed trading and provoked a row between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Shohat after the finance minister confessed it was unworkable.

Italy cancels all sports events

ROME (AFP) — Italian sports officials on Monday decided to cancel all sporting events next Sunday to protest against the murder of a football fan and mass riots at a match in Genoa last weekend. The decision was announced by the head of the Italian National Olympic Committee, Mario Pescante, and Italian Football Federation President Antonio Matarrese. The sports officials ignored a government call for the football programme to continue on fears that halting it might only serve to provoke more violence (see inside).

U.S. to extend ban on nuclear tests

NEW YORK (AFP) — The United States has extended its moratorium on nuclear tests until an international treaty banning such testing comes into effect, a top administration official said Monday. Anthony Lake, the White House national security advisor, told the Carnegie Endowment for World Peace here that a comprehensive test ban (CTB) treaty could be signed before Sept. 30, 1996.

Israel withdraws from Jordan

Armed Forces move into areas evacuated in south in line with peace treaty

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RISHEH, Wadi Araba — The Jordanian army on Monday began taking over land freed from 27 years of occupation as Israel started withdrawing from the territory in line with the Oct. 26 peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

The Jordanian national flag went up for the first time since 1968 at a hilltop here in vastness of the Wadi Araba desert after a brief ceremony where Israeli army officers formally handed over the area to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Israeli withdrawal was up to 6.2 kilometres at Rishah, about 100 kilometres north of Aqaba. In other spots across a 170-kilometre stretch of the border between the Wadi Araba crossing in the south — which was opened on Aug. 8 — and Qamar to the north, the depth of Israeli pullback on Monday ranged between 7.5 kilometres and 100 metres.

Formal handing-over ceremonies were held at two other spots along the border, army officers said. It was obvious that Israel kept a low media profile for the events.

By Feb. 9-10, the Kingdom would have regained 380 square kilometres of its land in the Wadi Araba desert and the north near

the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers after a two-phased Israeli withdrawal, said Major General Tahsin Sa'udon, head of the Jordanian side to a border and security committee with Israel.

The bulk of land being returned is in the south, occupied by Israel between 1968 and 70. An 830-dunum plot of land in the north, near the confluence of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers in an area called Bagoura, will be returned to Jordan on Feb. 9.

In the symbolic ceremony at Rishah, Jordanian soldiers used wirecutters to remove Jordanian and Israeli border fences, about three kilometres west of the main Amman-Aqaba road.

A convoy of about 30 vehicles and 200 soldiers and officers headed by Brig-Gen. Mohammad Milkawi, head of the southern command based in Aqaba, drove through the clearing across the dusty desert to the new border with Israel.

Little time was wasted on the strictly military handing-over ceremony coordinated by Brig-Gen. Mansour Abu Rashid, Jordan's delegate to a decades-old armistice commission with Israel.

Brig-Gen. Milkawi and his Israeli-counterpart

(Continued on page 7)



Jordanian soldiers on Monday hoist the national flag at the newly-marked borders with Israel on Monday (photo by Youssef Allan)

UAE, Jordan move closer, urge Arab reconciliation

Kabariti holds talks in Abu Dhabi, voices confidence over Jordan-Gulf relations

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan on Monday moved closer to healing a four-year-old rift and called for an end to a deep Arab split caused by the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, making his first visit to the UAE since the Gulf crisis, had talks on bilateral ties and Arab reconciliation with Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan.

Sheikh Sultan said he hoped the visit would "usher in a new stage of relations between the two countries," the official agency WAM reported.

"The coming stage requires us to overcome differences and unify Arab efforts to achieve solidarity to face the requirements arising from the new changes on the Arab and international levels," he

Kabariti in Bahrain

FOREIGN MINISTER Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Monday arrived in Manama on a two-day official visit to Bahrain during which he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Hussein to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifah. Mr. Kabariti was received at Manama airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifah and senior Bahraini officials.

The requirements arising from the new changes on the Arab and international levels, he

(Continued on page 7)

Carbomb kills 38; wounds more than 250 in Algiers

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Thirty-eight people were killed and more than 250 wounded Monday when a huge car bomb exploded near the Algiers police headquarters, in the bloodiest incident in three years of conflict between the authorities and Islamic militants.

The official casualty toll was contained in official statements after the blast, which shook buildings within a hundred metres radius and shattered windows.

It was by far the worst bombing during a three-year insurgency by Islamic militants that has killed at least 20,000 people. The powerful bomb damaged numerous cars and buildings in the area, and blew a crater in the sidewalk nearly two metres wide and more than 50 centimetres deep, witnesses said.

central police station. Ambulances rushed to the scene to ferry the victims to hospitals. The car where the bomb was hidden was destroyed and a thick smoke rose from other cars that apparently caught fire.

Security forces cordoned off the area. Sporadic automatic gunfire was heard shortly after the explosion. Windows of surrounding buildings were shattered. People with faces and hands bloodied by flying glass ran frantically through the street.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. "I was standing in a cafe not far away," said one witness, still shaking from the effects of shock. "The force of the explosion almost knocked me over."

He said he ran outside and found shattered bodies. An hour after the blast the sirens of ambulances racing to the scene could still be

heard. Security forces sealed off the area and banned vehicles and pedestrians. Bombs have increasingly been used in the three-year-old confrontation between Islamic extremists and the military-backed government, a guerrilla-style battle that has mainly been confined to gun and knife attacks. There have been about a half-dozen previous car bombings, but none killed more than five people.

The attack followed an exhortation by the Islamic Salvation Army for its followers to intensify attacks during the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, which begins this week. A newsletter received in Paris on Saturday called on followers to "fight the heathens and their supporters."

The Interior Ministry had said before the bombing that, like last year, a curfew in effect for three years would be shortened by a half-hour because of Ramadan.

Ramadan begins tomorrow in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The moon of Ramadan was not sighted in Jordan on Monday and, as such, the month of Shaaban will end on Tuesday and the Holy Month of Ramadan will start in the Kingdom as of Wednesday, Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi announced.

In the Gulf, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates announced Monday that the lunar crescent heralding Ramadan was sighted. The grand mufti of Egypt announced that Ramadan would start Wednesday because the crescent was not sighted anywhere in Egyptian skies.

As of dawn during Ramadan, Muslims start a daily fast, abstaining from food, water, smoking, sex and all material pleasures until dusk.

The month, which may last 29 or 30 days depending on the next lunar crescent sighting, will end with the Eid Al Fitr, a three-day feast marking the end of the fasting.

The month commemorates the days when the Angel imparted the wisdom of the Koran to the Prophet Mohammad. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, in a joint statement with his Crown Prince Abdullah on the occasion, urged Muslims to draw on the teachings of the Koran and use Ramadan "to correct our paths... and show goodwill."

"We were looking forward with high aspirations to see Ramadan this year with wounds healed, hearing the voice of right and justice and seeing peace spread on earth," they said in the statement read on Riyadh Radio.

They said that, were Muslims adhering properly to the teachings of the faith, "we would not be seeing what we see today in terms of dispersion, division and loss" in the Islamic World.

Rabin wants PLO action on militants before lifting siege

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will have to show it is serious in fighting violence before Israel lifts the ban on Palestinians entering Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday.

"The government decided the closure will not be lifted, especially around the Gaza Strip, before the Palestinian Authority has proved its determination to stop acts of terrorism against Israel," Mr. Rabin told Jerusalem school pupils.

The cabinet on Sunday extended the closure of the occupied West Bank and autonomous Gaza for at least a second week as Mr. Rabin warned terrorism posed a "strategic danger" to the Jewish state.

The cabinet vote on the measure was unanimous a week after two bombers from Islamic Jihad killed 21 Israelis near the coastal resort of Netanya.

"If we have to, we will employ 20,000 extra foreign workers from Europe and the Far East to replace those Palestinian workers who used to work in Israel before the closure."

Before the Jan. 22 closure, 50,000 Palestinians had work permits for Israel and an estimated 10,000-20,000 more worked illegally.

Mr. Rabin reaffirmed his stand that in the long-term "the only solution" to the violence was a "separation" between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

This had to start by reducing the economic interdependence between the two peoples, he said.

has described the closure as a collective punishment which would not serve the cause of peace.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Monday urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to intervene to help salvage the peace process, threatened by a postponement of negotiations following anti-Israeli violence.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said the PLO chief sent Mr. Clinton a message appealing to him to "intervene to save the peace process."

"I feel deeply concerned about the closure of the Gaza Strip and what it means for the Palestinians," said U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington, who was to deliver Mr. Arafat's message.

But he added: "continued terrorism... is destroying the peace process."

"The Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership must unequivocally and publicly reject terrorism such as what happened last Sunday that is killing the peace process."

Mr. Arafat has warned he will not tolerate the use of Gaza as a launchpad for attacks on Israel.

"Nobody has the right to use this liberated territory to carry out acts that will harm the Palestinian Authority," he said here Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat earlier on Monday said the Israel ban was a breach of the September 1993 Israel-PLO interim peace deal that instituted self-rule in most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho last May.

day said the Israel ban was a breach of the September 1993 Israel-PLO interim peace deal that instituted self-rule in most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho last May.

"This is really a breach of what had been agreed upon and signed in Washington," Mr. Arafat told reporters.

Deputy Defence Minister Motta Gur said that unless Mr. Arafat moved against the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, Israel would not implement phase two of the autonomy accord — an army pullout from West Bank towns on the eve of Palestinian general elections.

"We will not move on to the next stage... there will be no troop withdrawal from the towns if Yasser Arafat doesn't fulfill his obligations under the Oslo agreement," Mr. Gur said in an interview with the Haaretz daily.

Israel has already delayed troop withdrawal — initially expected last summer.

A government official said Monday that Israel has given the Palestinians a list of names of militants it wants arrested and extradited from PLO-ruled areas to Israel. The official said Israel had not issued an ultimatum to Mr. Arafat, but expected action.

Palestinian leaders counted (Continued on page 12)

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff at the Amman-based Middle East and North Africa regional and area office, the UNICEF Regional Director mourns the death of their Executive Director and Under Secretary General:

Dr. James P. Grant

who passed away in New York on Saturday January 28, at the age of 72. Mr. Grant is remembered for his dedication to the cause of children and his untiring efforts, even during his serious illness, to further his dream of creating a better world for children.

May God rest his soul in peace.

A condolence book for signature is open for two more days as of today at the UNICEF Office in Amman at the 13th floor of the Comprehensive Commercial Centre, 3rd Circle, Jabal Amman.

France says Algeria gaining over Islamists

PARIS (R) — Algerian security forces are starting to chalk up successes over Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas but the economy is sinking under the weight of civil strife, a senior French military source said on Monday.

"The situation in the field is still very bad but the security forces have been in the past month or two regained control of some areas of the 'bled' (countryside) and of cities where the fundamentalists had held the upper hand," he said.

"The government has scored successes over armed bands, which have been forced by helicopter gunships and other new tactics to break into smaller groups than the company-sized units they moved in before, losses among security forces are down," he said.

"But the successes are mostly tactical. Terrorism still continues, especially at night, and the real problem is that the economy is suffering and will not be able to resist if the war goes on," the source said.

France, the former colonial power, closely monitors the situation in Algeria, intercepting military communication.

The Algerian army has faced a growing fundamentalist revolt since it intervened in January 1992 to scrap an election which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Western experts say up to 30,000 people have died in worsening civil strife. The French source said several hundred people were being killed every week at present.

"Undoubtedly, the guerrillas in the field have lost some of their freedom of movement but they still have refuge areas which the security forces cannot penetrate," the source said.

France did not believe there was a military solution to the crisis but "something will happen if the government cannot stop the haemorrhage of the economy," the source said.

"The economy cannot resist, especially if foreign firms pull out and international organisations were to withhold aid," he said.

Paris has urged the government to negotiate with opposition parties including the FIS which agreed on a joint platform this month. France is concerned at the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and effectively backs the government side with economic aid.



CELEBRATION: Jordanian soldiers rejoice after hoisting the Jordanian flag near the newly-marked border with Israel on Monday after the Jewish state withdrew from the area (see page one) (photo by Youssef Allan)

Food aid needs in Sudan cut — agency

NAIROBI (AFP) — Continued fighting in southern Sudan threatens to set back progress made in 1994 through improved access for relief activities and good harvests in most parts of the war-torn region, U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) warned in a statement released here on Monday.

According to the statement, the number of people in need of food aid in Sudan had dropped from about 4.3 million in 1994 to 1.2 million, of which some 720,000 were in the south, a situation that had enabled OLS to shift focus to measures which would build on people's ability to feed themselves and to improve health and other services.

The statement quoted OLS southern sector coordinator Philip O'Brien as warning: "While the food situation is stable right now, fighting is going on in some areas, and if this intensifies during the dry season, thousands of people may be forced to abandon their harvests and run for safety."

Mr. O'Brien said one of the areas at greatest risk was Equatoria province near Sudan's southern borders with Kenya, Uganda and Zaire, where more than 166,000 displaced people are already living in camps.

Fighting was also seriously disrupting relief operations in the northern Bahr Al Ghazal and Upper Nile provinces, the statement said.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which together coordinate OLS activities from Kenya and Uganda, are to hold a news conference here later on Monday to coincide with the U.N.'s 1995 emergency appeal for more than \$101 million for the whole of Sudan.

The largest portion of this amount — \$43.6 million — will be for UNICEF programmes in nutrition, food security, health, shelter, water and basic education for an estimated \$4.25 million people, mainly in the south, the statement said.

And with good harvests in most parts of Sudan due to excellent rains, lack of pests, and a significant input of seeds and tools, the 1995 WFP appeal for the entire country "has been reduced from \$123 million last year to \$2.4 million in 1995, it said.

The amount is mostly for food transport and logistics costs, and does not include the 1995 relief food requirement of 109,400 tonnes, all of which is already covered by WFP and NGO carry-over stocks and 1994 undelivered pledges.

Ministry to provide scholarship to six boy scouts, girl guides

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday announced that six university scholarships will be granted by the Ministry of Higher Education to students nominated by the Jordanian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Society.

At a meeting with about 3,500 scouts and guides on the eve of the start of the annual charity drive organised by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) during the Holy Month of Ramadan, Princess Basma expressed pride in members of the scouts movement who participate in the charity drive and other voluntary activities.

Announcing the start of awarding an annual prize for a boy scout and a girl guide who excel in their work, Princess Basma said a committee would be set up to determine the standards and criteria to be followed in granting the two prizes.

Princess Basma said the participation of scouts and guides in the campaign ensures its success.

This participation, she said, depicts the wide popular participation in supporting the charity drive and manifests the concepts of social solidarity and integration characterising "the one Jordanian family."

Princess Basma thanked pioneering scouts who were on Monday honoured for their distinguished contribution to the development of the scouts movement.

The head of the scouts and guides section at the Ministry of Education, Abla Abu Nuwar, commended in an address at the meeting the role of the scouts and guides.

The scouts have thus far planted 26 forests in various parts of the Kingdom, she said.

At the end of the meeting, Princess Basma distributed certificates to pioneering scouts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladeshi beaten 4 in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Workmates beat up and banded to police a Bangladeshi man who fondled the breast of an expatriate woman whose house he cleans, a Kuwaiti daily said on Monday. Al Wateen newspaper said the woman was one of a group sharing the house who often wore bathing suits in front of cleaners, and he touched her as she walked past him in "revealing attire." The man "told police he never saw anything as beautiful as those girls and could not resist the temptations he was exposed to during his work," the newspaper said. It did not give the nationality of the workmates or women.

Eritrea sets condition for Sudan ties

CAIRO (R) — Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki was quoted on Monday as saying he would restore severed ties with Khartoum only if it stopped alleged training and backing of militants working against his regime. In an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, Mr. Afewerki accused Sudan of attempting to spread its brand of Islamic fundamentalism to Arab and African states. "We do not have a problem with Sudan. But it is the plans and dreams of certain people in Khartoum which make things different. The whole matter is in the hands of the National Islamic Front in Khartoum. If they simply stopped supporting this group (jihad) this will solve the whole problem," he said. "As soon as Sudan halts its arming and training of members of jihad, Asmara is ready to restore ties immediately." Mr. Afewerki said a group of militants who crossed the borders to carry out attacks against installations and other targets had been arrested and many of them killed.

Egypt searches for tomb of Alexander

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian antiquities authority has launched a search for the tomb of Alexander the Great in the Siwa oasis of the western desert. Al Ahran newspaper reported Monday. Abdel Halim Nureddin, secretary general of the antiquities authority, said that two documents found at a Siwa temple "confirm that the site concerns Alexander the Great." The documents found by a Greek archaeologist state that Alexander had asked, before his death in Babylon, to be buried in Siwa, 750 kilometres west of Cairo. Mr. Nureddin told Al Ahran from the site. He said archaeologists who studied a tomb at the Oracle of Amon had found that it dated from the Macedonian era and was laid out like royal Greek tombs. "Digging will continue to look for the body of Alexander," he said.

Bashir unveils 'response' to Amnesty

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's leader, Omar Al Bashir, said Monday that his country's response to a recent critical Amnesty International report was the graduation of more military cadets to fight in the civil war. He told a ceremony for 65,000 new members of the Popular Defence Forces militia that "this is our first response to the Amnesty International campaign." The ceremony was held in Gedaref, southeast of Khartoum. The London-headquartered human rights group last week released a 132-page report detailing what it said were gross human rights abuses stemming from Sudan's 11-year civil war. It called for the United Nations to create a human rights monitoring team to watch Sudan. On Sunday, General Bashir accused Amnesty of launching a crusade against his country, charging that it was trying to get "Sudan to abandon Islamic Sharia law. The Popular Defence Forces were set up by Gen. Bashir to augment his army in the south. Young men are required to serve in the militia if they want to attend state-run universities or be hired for government jobs. Thousands of others have volunteered.

Kuwait deports Palestinian poet

KUWAIT (AP) — A Palestinian poet convicted of slandering a Kuwaiti newspaper columnist has been deported despite appeals from human rights activists. Tawfik Amarah left Sunday for Jordan, where he has citizenship, after a deportation order from the interior ministry, according to Ali Al Baghli of parliament's human rights committee. Mr. Amarah, in his 60s and a longtime resident, was handed a suspended sentence by a court which ruled in October that he had libelled Al Watan columnist Fouad Al Hashem "to the raven of death and..." described him as a financial manager for a private company, wrote the poem and telefaxed it to Mr. Hashem in response to the columnist's criticism of Palestinians and the alleged support they gave to Iraqi occupation troops after the 1990 invasion. The piece has not been published. Local human rights groups, including the parliamentary committee, tried to stop the deportation.

Kuwait toughens penalty for breaking fast

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Anyone caught eating, drinking or smoking in public during the day over the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan will risk being fined as well as jailed, the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry warned Monday. It said violators could now face a new 100-dinar (\$320) fine, a jail term, or even both. The law, which was previously restricted to a prison term of up to one month, would be strictly enforced. "Non-fasters should respect the feelings of fasters," it said. Its public relations director, Adel Al Ibrahim, said the ministry was closing down restaurants and food shops which remain open during fasting hours, from dawn to sundown. An exception is made for hotel restaurants, which are allowed to open for one hour a day. This year's Ramadan is expected to start Tuesday or Wednesday in Kuwait, depending on the sighting of the new moon.

Distrust, rivalry, oil fuel Yemen-Saudi border row

By Assem Abdul Mohsen
Reuters

SANAA — Distrust, political rivalry, and potential oil reserves are fuelling the border tensions between oil giant Saudi Arabia and impoverished Yemen, with no sign of any breakthrough in talks to resolve them.

The row has simmered for 60 years, cast a cloud over foreign oil exploration of the frontier region, and erupted again during last year's Yemeni civil war.

Sanaa is trying to persuade its wealthy neighbour to normalise relations and return land which it says was seized during the civil war.

"The two sides have a long, thorny way to go, before ironing out problems ranging from political rivalry, large tracts of ill-marked borders, potential oil reserves, and historically deep-rooted mistrust," one diplomat said on Saturday.

According to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Saudis seized the opportunity to occupy Yemeni land when he deployed his troops away from the border to help crush southern secessionists based in Aden.

When the troops returned after the war, they found Saudi forces in place and the kingdom's flag flying there, he said.

Ties between the two Arab neighbours have been strained particularly since 1990, mainly by Yemen's vote in the U.N. Security Council against a resolution sanctioning the 1991 Gulf war to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

They were further strained last year when Saudi Arabia appeared to side with the

southern Yemeni secessionist bid which took Mr. Saleh's forces two months to crush.

Yemeni sources said Saudi Arabia is trying to push the border in eastern Yemen to a line further south, than the one accepted by Sanaa.

This claim could not be independently confirmed.

But back in 1993, Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, told foreign oil firms prospecting near the area with Yemeni licences that they were trespassing on Saudi territory.

Sanaa, recovering from civil war and faced with difficult economic problems, wants to normalise ties with Riyadh as a first step towards settling the dispute.

"How could the border problem be solved in the absence of normal ties? Normalisation of ties is a sign of goodwill necessary to ensure a lasting solution," one official said.

"This is a high political price Riyadh is still apparently not prepared to grant Saleh," one diplomat said.

"The Saudis were not happy about his victory... in the civil war and to accord him an additional political victory by normalising ties with him was too much for them to swallow."

Diplomats say Mr. Saleh's conciliatory approach — including a pledge not to be dragged into war with Riyadh even if attacked — had several aims.

He was portraying himself as a man of peace, making Saudi Arabia appear intransigent. "This is winning him more support from a public

whose distrust of Saudi intentions is deep-rooted," said one diplomat.

Mr. Saleh was also trying to "deprive certain elements within the Saudi leadership, whom he is convinced want to deal him a blow, from any excuse," he added.

The president said on Friday some in Riyadh were massing the troops to impose a "policy of status quo in demarcating the borders... such a policy will not eventually succeed."

But he also said talks in Riyadh had led to a slight pullback of Saudi military, without saying when it took place.

Diplomats said earlier there had been fresh Saudi troop movements on Tuesday and Wednesday involving more than 60 tanks towards the border area near Al Boka.

Saudi troops were between Al Boka and Najran, Mr. Saleh said. Western maps show Al Boka, which has an airport, inside northern Yemen and Najran inside southern Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh has denied the latest charge and told Sanaa to check with it first before making such claims.

Yemen on Saturday proposed forming a Yemeni-Saudi committee with Egyptian and Syrian participation to investigate whether Saudi Arabia had massed troops on the border. There has been no public response from Riyadh.

"The two sides are likely to settle for a freezing of the status quo until the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan which falls next week, before a new round of contacts, or limited clashes, resume, one diplomat said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Cocoon Minutes
17:30 Que Le Mielier Gagne
18:00 Enbarquement Port 1
18:30 Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants
19:00 News in French
19:30 Practical Guide to the Universe
19:45 Varieties
20:00 You Bet Your Life
21:30 Road to Avonlea
21:10 Equinox
22:00 News in English
22:30 Wild Palms
23:10 The Piglet Files

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 Fajr
06:28 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:49 Dhuhr
14:46 'Asr
17:13 Maghrib
18:31 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedeth, Tel. 510740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 4/14
Aqaba 10/21
Deserts 2/16
Jordan Valley 8/19

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 15, Aqaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jamal Marqah 776149
Dr. Nidal Asad 751077
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 783525
Dr. Ghazi Abdullah 864286
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 636072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmoikani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 636072
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Akram Al Momani 248795
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989601
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police (P.C. 621111) 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 751211
Highway Police 543402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630211
Hotel Complaints 605800
Prison Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 625101
Telephone Information 651101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816415

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642411/2
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642462
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisan 664171/4
Shmeisan Hospital 666131
University Hospital 545845
Al-Musader Hospital 667277
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 751111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital 642411/2
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900500
Queen Alia Hospital (09)981732
Al-Hukma Modern Hospital (09)999990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:35 London (RJ)
10:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:25 Vienna (OS)
14:25 Rome (AZ)
20:20 Aden (DY)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
21:20 Amsterdam (KL)
23:50 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:55 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:20 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:25 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:15 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
13:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Vienna (OS)
15:25 Damascus (AZ)
21:00 Aden (DY)

MARKET PRICES

Supermarket prices in US per kg.

Apple 700/400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Cabbage 150/80
Carrot 120/80
Cauliflower 120/80
Cucumbers (large) 200/120
Cucumbers (small) 400/220
Eggplant 300/220
Garlic 800/500
Grapefruit 300/200
Lemon 200/180
Marrow (large) 180/100
Marrow (small) 360/200
Onion (green) 300/220
Onion (dry) 320/200
Orange 700/500
Pepper (hot) 900/150
Pepper (sweet) 450/250
Potato 320/200
Radish 180/100
Spinach 120/80
Spring Beans 900/500
Tomato 360/220

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:25 Amsterdam (KL)
05:50 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Home

Prince

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein turned 33 on Monday.

Born in Amman on Jan. 30, 1962, Prince Abdullah started his education at the Catholic Educational College in Amman, which he attended until 1980. He entered St. Edmund's School in Surrey, England and later attended Deerfield Academy in the United States, where he completed his high school education. In 1980, Prince Abdullah joined the Royal Academy in Sandhurst, in England, where he received his military education.

The Prince joined Oxford University for a year, starting in October 1983, for special studies in international politics and world affairs.

From August 1987 to May 1988, he attended the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

In January 1993, Prince Abdullah was promoted to Colonel and is currently Commander of the Jordanian Special Forces.

The Prince has participated in several training courses in artillery and various small arms. He has also served with Jordanian Special Forces, in airborne and anti-terrorist activities.

He is qualified as a parachutist from both the British and French armies. His other skills include free-fall parachuting and repelling.

Officials of Une Ponte (Bridge to Baghdad) look in at Saif Abdul Sahib of Iraq arrival in Amman Monday.

Italian girl Iraqi child urgent m

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a 14-hour journey from Baghdad to Amman, Saif Abdul Sahib, five, climbed two flights of stairs alone. When he reached the ward, he was back. Une Ponte (Bridge to Baghdad) Association Coordinator Umberto Greco said Monday.

Saif suffers from a cardiac problem and four hours later, sitting on a hospital bed, his fingers were still black and swollen, his eyes glassy.

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"The children are very sick. The problem in Iraq is not that the doctors are unable to perform what is required, rather they do not have medicines or anaesthetics," Mr. Greco said.

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and he is a qualified frogman and pilot.

The Prince's interests include car racing (he has been Jordanian National Rally Racing Champion), water sports and scuba diving.

On June 10, 1993 Prince Abdullah was married to Her Royal Highness Princess Rania and on June 28, 1994 the couple celebrate the birth of their son, Hussein Ben Abdullah.

Text of the Jordan - PNA general agreement on post and communications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following is a translation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on post and communications:

In implementation of the general agreement on cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) concluded in Amman on Jan. 26, 1995, the two sides agree on the following:

Article one: Jordan will provide the Palestinian side with a syllabus for training and study adopted by Jordanian postal and communications training institutes and will train Palestinian students in these institutes and will send experts to help develop the post and communications system in the PNA areas.

Article two: The Palestinian side will offer Jordanian companies, engineers and technicians priority in participating in studies, planning and evaluation and the transfer of experience in the course of implementing Palestinian national projects financed by international agencies. The two sides will coordinate these moves through the proper channels.

Article three: Jordan will use its good offices to back Palestinian side's quest to join the Universal Postal Union, the International Telecommunications Association and the

Arab Telecommunications Union.

Article four: The two sides will set up a joint committee to deal with matters connected with post and communications. It will group concerned ministers from the two sides, who will follow the implementation of the agreement.

Article five: The two sides will discuss the introduction of direct telephone services between them when opportune circumstances are available to the Palestinian side.

Article six: The two sides agree to start postal exchanges between them in accordance with the attached protocol. This agreement was signed in Amman on Jan. 26, 1995 by Jordanian Minister of Post and Communications, Jamal Sarairoh and PNA Minister of Post and Communications, Abdul Hafez Ashab.

Protocol on postal services between Jordan and the PNA

In implementation of Article six of the Jordanian-Palestinian general agreement on post and communications, the two sides agree on the following:

Item One: Direct postal exchange between the two countries:

a) Amman's central post office will serve as the office for exchanging direct postal

services with the Jericho post office in the PNA area.

b) Exchange of mail will take place on the King Hussein Bridge, to be conducted by two vehicles belonging to the two sides or via another means considered by the two sides as suitable for them. Each side will bear the cost of transporting mail until it has reached the territory of the other side.

c) The two sides will exempt one another fully from the final costs incurred on the transportation of various mail and also internal air transport expenses.

d) The PNA's mail to be directly exchanged with Jordan will for the time being be restricted to the Jericho and the Gaza self-rule areas.

e) Each side will return the empty mail bags to the other in accordance with the terms of the international agreements on postal exchange.

Item two:

Exchange of mail between the PNA and the other Arab countries through Jordan:

a) Outgoing mail: The PNA postal authority will hand the mail bags destined for Arab countries to the Jordanian postal authorities on the King Hussein bridge.

The Jordanian postal authority will transport the Palestinian bags from the bridge to the Queen Alia International Airport and hand it to Royal Jordanian

(RJ).

The Palestinian postal authorities will bear the expenses of transporting the mail bags going to the Arab countries all along the aforementioned route in accordance with the rates of the Universal Postal Agreement, and will pay for the services to the Jordanian postal authorities in Jordanian currency in accordance with the rates of exchange of the Jordanian currency as set by the International Monetary Fund as calculated in correspondence with the Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

The Palestinian national postal authorities will bear the expenses of air transport of Palestinian mail from the Queen Alia International Airport to the Arab states at the rates which are adopted by the Jordanian postal authorities.

Claims for payment will be made by RJ to the PNA and will be calculated at the rates of the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) system which is adopted by the Universal Postal Union. The Palestine Postal authority will draw up a list of various types of mail heading for the various destinations and will hand it to the Jordanian postal authorities which in turn will distribute them to different destinations in accordance with RJ's flights.

RJ will, free of charge, return the empty mail bags to

the PNA from Arab destinations. RJ will hand Palestinian mail to the Jordanian postal authorities to be handed over to the PNA.

b) Incoming mail: Countries sending mail will bear the expenses of despatching it to the Queen Alia International Airport as usual. The Jordanian postal authorities will undertake the transportation of the mail from the airport to the King Hussein Bridge and the expenses will be borne by the sender countries in accordance with the rates adopted by the Universal Postal Union.

Article three: The PNA will contact the Arab states to agree on postal exchanges.

Article four: The parties involved will take security measures to guarantee the safe arrival of mail either way.

Article five: The two sides will apply the rules of the Universal Postal Union in all matters related to this protocol.

Article six: The two sides will agree on a date for putting this agreement into force.

The protocol was signed in Amman on Jan. 26, 1995 by Jordanian Minister of Post and Communications, Jamal Sarairoh and PNA Minister of Post and Communications, Abdul Hafez Ashab.

Excerpts from speeches of House deputies on government's policy statement

Jamil Al Hushoush (Karak)

"... with respect and appreciation for all members of the government, I do not find in several of the ministers the characteristics that the new stage requires... because the government was formed through bargaining and compromises by some parliamentary blocs and other parties. Eventually the government was formed of several members of previous governments whose performance was less than normal... this does not conform to the requirements of the current stage and does not ensure harmony needed to upgrade public work. This can clearly be manifested in the large number of ministers. I for example do not find a need to having five ministers of state in addition to two deputy prime ministers. 'The government's statement was promising and expressed optimism for solving all problems plaguing the country, namely the problems of poverty and unemployment at a time when we see the number of unemployed rising and the poor becoming poorer and even increasing in number as a result to the soaring prices and the drop in the purchasing ability. The wording of the statement is not as important as achieving goals and carrying out promises.

Abdullah Akhu Irshaida (Mafraq)

"After examining the government's policy statement, I briefly say that it is clear in its expressions and conforms to the needs of the stage at the national, Arab, Islamic and international levels... The statement stressed the need to re-formulate the democratic and social fabrics of society with all their economic and cultural dimensions... 'Regarding poverty and unemployment, it is a fact now that the conditions of a high percentage of the people in terms of poverty should be tackled... here I point to the need to transfer some allocations in the budget to find job opportunities... 'I also should remind Sharif Zeid and his government that AL Bait University, this big monument which was established over thousands of dunums is stumbling on the way to achieving its objectives. It is in need of allocations that suit the aspirations of King Hussein... 'I also call for justice in offering job opportunities among the governorates, districts and regions. I also call for fairness in distributing wealth by launching some projects in the governorates that need them. I wish the government of Sharif Zeid luck in carrying out its promises... and I announce that I will vote in its favour to give it the chance to carry out its duty."

Fayyad Jarrar (Zarqa - Watan)

"The government's policy statement talked about nice things and promised a good future in various aspects... but more important is to see these promises turned into reality... 'Today we face a new stage after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Naturally, we cannot confront this new stage with old, outdated mentalities and practices... today we are in dire need for the brains of all qualified and experienced Jordanians, to put the right person in the right place regardless of origin, political or tribal affiliations. We are all one family in this great homeland, the family of King Hussein... the country will not prosper unless we use all our abilities and capabilities to serve the country and its citizens.

"The most important of the citizens' demands is enhancing the principle of granting equal opportunities in government appointments and in admitting students to universities and providing an honest living in accordance with just plans... 'Nawwaf Qadi (pendent/ Northern Bedouins)

"The government's statement is complete and comprehensive, and if implemented will serve the interests of the nation. The formation of this government, with one-fourth of its members from the Lower House is the apex of democracy. Both the executive and legislative authorities are acting as one team for the interests of the entire nation. Mr. Qadi said.

He called for finding jobs for the jobless in the rural and Badia (desert) areas and voiced hope that industrial plants in the rural and Badia areas will be able to absorb some of the jobless in these areas. Mr. Qadi called for providing financial support to AL Bait University to enable it absorb local people from the area in infrastructure projects.

Mohammad Hneiti (Amman's Fourth District) "I had hoped to see an integrated and comprehensive plan in the government policy statement but I was disappointed to find that the statement was a mere repetition of those presented by former governments. For this reason I would like to direct attention to the following points: 'First: Rule should be based on justice. Justice can be achieved through equality and fairness as all citizens are and should be treated equally. But this concept was lacking in the formation of the present government. The cabinet overlooked the need to represent all governorates and rather preferred to de-

pend on a group of persons who knew in advance that they would be selected for their posts. With due respect to the prime minister, the inclusion of a certain group and no other in the cabinet is in conflict with the norms, and does not serve the cause of justice and fairness. The country abounds with qualified and competent persons who can better steer the country into the 21st century. 'Second: With the signing of the peace treaty Jordan has entered a new phase which we hope would culminate with the construction of the modern state. We have heard a lot about making Jordan a model state for the other Arab countries to emulate but the government's statement was void of any plan to build such a modern state. 'Third: Unemployment and poverty have reached dangerous proportions, threatening the country's security and its social fabric. We are appointed to see no national plan to deal with these two problems. 'Fourth: We need to link education with the society's needs and to see our educational institutions contributing to solving the country's chronic issues. The educational system in our schools and universities is obsolete, traditional and unfit to prepare new generations for the coming century."

Toujan Faisal (Amman's third district)

My dear colleagues, I am not here in a place to point a finger at anyone, but I read what was written by the hand of the government. When the government turns its back in such a flagrant manner on the interest of the nation... the more difficult the role of those representing the nation in parliament becomes... With the same objectivity and honesty I say that the structure of the government is not also void of inefficiencies, no matter how few. But proficient members in the wrong place are inactive... The beginning of (their) mistake, in my view, was joining such a cabinet, because the standard and proficiency of the government is its head. Prime ministers, according to our long experience with several ministries, are either individualistic in taking decisions and dominating all important keys in the government, or are just a facade hiding and protecting those standing behind them. In my view, the designated prime minister is closer to the second case than the first. I also remind my kind colleagues not to confuse, especially in the case of Sharif Zeid's government, between the throne and the executive authority. With the same realism and objectivity required by the (present) stage, I warn that the confusion had taken place and has become a reality, whether it happened intentionally or unintentionally, not only in the

case of this government, but also in the case of Sharif Zeid's previous government... What I offer you now is the outcome of a long-term follow-up and examination process of the performance of Sharif Zeid in his previous government... and I follow the same standards I used to judge the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali. So, I will start with the visible works of the government in general, which some considered an achievement. First: The former government of Sharif Zeid had the bigger role in linking us to the plans of the International Monetary Fund and its prescriptions, which led to the depression we are witnessing. Second: Related to the peace treaty, the government of Sharif Zeid was the one which participated in the Madrid Conference and crossed the longest distance in the peace process. Third: Regarding this democracy... we should know that the former government is the godfather of the State Security Court Law which permitted, under the cover the legitimacy allowed by the parliament... the arrest and trial of citizens without any of the evidence that should be taken by a civil court which respects its independence and the sovereignty of law... Fourth: During the former government of Sharif Zeid and with the powers of this State Security Court, two deputies were arrested and tried by offering charges that would not suffice to arrest a veteran thief with criminal records for one day... It is irrational to say that this historical trial, of this historical scandal, and this ugly face of martial law, was without the personal knowledge of the prime minister. It was he who authorised the intelligence officers to use the powers of the judiciary... And talk about the independence of the judiciary will do no good. The whole world know that these special courts in the Third World are not independent and cannot even be considered courts at all.

Fifth: Regarding the elections of 1989... if there was in these elections any achievement, it can be attributed to the deputy prime minister and interior minister then. And if there was any hampering, rigging or distortions, blame should fall on those behind the martial policies then. And I do not say that the prime minister is responsible for that, because I do not think his excellency ran the affairs of the government then or that he will even run them now. He is just a facade. I personally know the real players before I start calling their names or applauding them... In my belief, all organisations in the era of democracy, including professional associations, should be political to be able to reach all bases and diversify their means. Here I will

apply the standard of professionalisation on this government represented by its head. His Excellency Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Those who followed up the works of the previous government of Sharif Zeid and the performance of his head should have noticed a strange phenomenon, that the prime minister did not appear in any public meeting or lecture, or even in an open press conference where journalists can direct questions at him to answer directly instead of the written questions presented to him ahead of time in the limited interviews that were conducted with him... Another strange phenomenon is that his excellency never had any discussion with deputies at any session, no matter how heated, and never expressed any verbal view in any question directed to him as prime minister in any meeting. And every time he read from a written paper.

I remind all here that the reply of his excellency to the congratulations of our House over the government was also written... (I asked many people who have known him if he is capable of shouldering the responsibilities of his new profession, that is, politics, and I did not receive any good answers... The best testimony was in his favour, and I affirm to you that I was searching strenuously for such testimony to be able to vote for him with a clear conscience. This testimony was that several ministers and deputies said "he is a good man." But my dear colleagues, this is not enough to make a prime minister. We all claim we are good, and we know a lot of good people and deal with them daily... But we never claim that qualifies them to become prime ministers. Another testimony by his former colleagues in the Armed Forces was that "he is an excellent military man," and I accept their testimony and every positive testimony... But I stop to say that the military is different from politics. Excellence in one of them does not mean that a person is qualified to make any minor political decisions... I am ready to do this research again in search of any military victories I missed through my long history in the fields of media and politics... And I am ready to attribute these victories to his excellency and his colleagues.

But I hope all will excuse me if I attribute all the heroic deeds and triumphs to the soldiers and junior officers... My dear colleagues, I warn you of fear... and again I warn you of confusing authorities... You are the protectors of the Constitution and democracy, you are the protectors of the authorities and their independence... you are the representatives of the nation, and only the nation is the source of the authorities.



Officials of Une Ponte Per Baghdad (Bridge to Baghdad) look in on five-year-old Saif Abdul Sahib of Iraq after his arrival in Amman Monday. Saif is among 10 children from Iraq, who will be brought to Italy for treatment of critical health problems (Photo by Rana Hussein)

Italian group to escort Iraqi children to Italy for urgent medical attention

By Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a 14-hour journey from Baghdad to Amman, Saif Abdul Sahib, five, climbed two flights of stairs alone. When he reached the ward, he was back, Une Ponte Per Baghdad (Bridge to Baghdad) Association Coordinator Umberto Greco said Monday.

Saif suffers from a cardiac problem and four hours later, sitting on a hospital bed, his fingers were still black and swollen, his eyes glassy.

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"The children are very sick. The problem in Iraq is not that the doctors are unable to perform what is required, rather they do not have medicines or anaesthetics," Mr. Greco said.

Bridge to Baghdad, which is part of an Italian pacifist movement based in Milan, was established on January 17, 1991, the day the Gulf war officially began.

Originally, when the association began its operations last March, children selected by the Iraqi Red Crescent were transported straight to Italy.

But in October last year, when a "Bridge" delegation visited Baghdad, the group discovered that many of the children could be treated locally if the medical supplies were available, said Mr. Greco,

who has visited Iraq nine times in almost a year. Since then, cases have been prioritised so only the most serious ones are treated in Italy.

"Up to 60 children can be admitted to Niguarda Hospital in Milan where, including the 10 that will travel there Tuesday, 36 will have been treated," Mr. Greco said.

Whilst in Amman the children and their mothers were staying at the Italian Hospital. Once in Milan, the mothers will be housed by Italian families until the children are fit to return to Iraq.

Gaunt, almost expressionless faces tell pitiful tales. The programme usually caters for children under 12, but a girl of 15, who needs orthopaedic surgery on her spine, is among the 10 children travelling Tuesday morning.

Hamayak Niveen, a tiny three-year-old, her face yellow and drawn, sat passively clutching a toy. Mr. Greco said she required "general surgery" for a urinary tract disorder. She is unable to retain any fluids.

Under the leadership of cardio-vascular specialist Bruno Peronace, a team of seven other doctors and nurses arrived here with the children Monday.

"We have chosen children to be transferred to Italy, from those selected by the Red Crescent, who are in need of special treatment," Dr. Peronace said, adding that the team of medical staff had been in Iraq helping their Iraqi counterparts for about three weeks.

"The medical infrastruc-

ture there is sophisticated, and the doctors are highly trained and specialised, but they lack medical supplies and equipment," he said.

A total of 220 Italian families sponsor as many Iraqi children undergoing medical treatment in Iraq. After the completion of treatment, sponsorship is transferred to another child.

In addition to medical staff, the association, which is run by volunteers, arranges for about 15 to 20 self-financed persons to travel to Iraq on visits described by Mr. Greco as "solidarity and knowledge trips."

"Every month or so a different group travels around Iraq for about 10 days, meeting people, visiting hospitals and Red Crescent centres," Mr. Greco added.

Personal luggage is kept to a minimum so that they can carry as much medicine as possible in their baggage, he said.

Mr. Greco maintains that the association strives for solidarity between the peoples of Italy and Iraq. It also organises Iraqi cultural weeks in various cities throughout Italy, to raise money and sensitise the public to the needs of the Iraqi civilian population, he told the Jordan Times.

"The association has no official relations with the Iraqi government other than cooperation between it and our government for visa purposes," Mr. Greco said.

The association's aims are not politically motivated, but the association is opposed to the imposition of embargos in general, Mr. Greco added.

Ecuadorian commander claims victory over Peruvian offensive

MACAS, Ecuador (AFP) — Ecuador downed two helicopters Sunday in repelling a Peruvian air attack on four border posts, officials said, amid intense fighting on the anniversary of a contentious peace treaty between the two countries.

"Our unflinching decision is to hold onto them and we repelled forces that today attacked simultaneously several national border posts," said General Jorge Ortega.

Gen. Ortega arrived late Sunday at this remote Amazon region to inspect the theatre of operations as fighting between Peruvian and Ecuadorian forces over a disputed stretch of border entered into a fourth day.

Peruvian television earlier reported that Lima troops had taken three border posts and that fresh troops had also been deployed to the area, an assertion sharply denied in Quito.

In Quito, government spokesman Enrique Proano said in a statement that Ecuadorian forces shot down a Peruvian helicopter, killing seven soldiers on board, as it attacked the Teniente Ortiz military outpost.

Another helicopter was reported shot down hours later, but there were no casualty reports immediately released.

A communiqué from the Ecuadorian Joint Chief of Staffs said Peruvian forces attacked the bases of Soldado Monge, Teniente Hugo Ortiz, Coangos and Cueva De Las Tayos.

Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran Ballen meanwhile told thousands of supporters massed on Independence Square he would accept a ceasefire with Peru if the sides establish "with dignity, the final definition of our borders."

"Ecuador will not retreat," he stated amid cheers, adding

that the border posts were "on Ecuadorian soil."

At issue in the conflict is the 1942 Protocol of Rio that was signed after the 1941 war between Ecuador and Peru and set out territorial limits for the two countries.

Quito renounced the pact in 1960, arguing that it had been pressured into signing, and the countries since have battled sporadically over the oil and mineral-rich zone on the edge of the Amazon basin.

Sunday was the anniversary of the signing of the Rio Protocol.

The border conflict has claimed at least 23 lives since Thursday, when Peru said an Ecuadorian helicopter attacked a border post in the Amazon basin and Ecuador charged that Peruvian troops attacked forces inside its territory.

Observers noted that the deployment of airpower in the region marked an escalation in the fighting and threatened to spark an all-out war between the two Andean nations.

Mr. Proano said five Peruvian helicopters attacked the Coangos border post around 10 a.m. (1500 GMT) and that "our troops maintained their positions."

He also said that the Erza border post was attacked by Peruvian helicopters but the offensive was repelled by Ecuadorian air defences.

The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela Sunday released a communiqué calling on Peru and Ecuador to agree to a ceasefire while searching for a peaceful resolution.

In Macas, Ecuadorian combat planes were landing and lifting off but there was no official comment on the flight missions.

Meanwhile, Organisation of American State (OAS) Secretary General Cesar Gaviria was in Quito Sunday meeting with Mr. Duran Ballen after talks in Lima with President Alberto Fujimori Saturday.

Mr. Fujimori has sought to downplay the conflict — acknowledging only that there have been "skirmishes" along the border in recent days — and has insisted that neither the OAS nor U.N. mediators should intervene in the dispute.

Peruvian officials were not available for comment Sunday following Ecuador's announcement that the major offensive was underway.

Mr. Duran Ballen Friday declared a national state of emergency and mobilisation.

In the Peruvian border town of Tumbes, some 80 Peruvians, most of whom were businessmen, said they were unceremoniously deported from the Ecuadorian village of Loja.



Ecuador President Sixto Duran Ballen (right) waves to a crowd gathered outside the government palace in Quito to show their support for the government's position on its border dispute with Peru (AFP photo).

Japan quake damage to cost over \$80b

TOKYO (R) — Reconstruction following the devastating earthquake which struck central Japan two weeks ago will total more than \$85 billion, a top local government official said Monday.

Deputy Governor Choji Ashio of Hyogo prefecture said the regional government estimated the total cost at 8.55 trillion yen (\$85.5 billion).

Mr. Ashio revealed the estimate in a report submitted to officials of the coalition government in Tokyo who visited the quake-stricken region, a spokesman for the Hyogo prefectural government said.

The port city of Kobe, hit hardest by the Jan. 17 tremor, is the capital of Hyogo prefecture.

The latest figure compares with a 6.425 trillion yen (\$64.2 billion) estimate made last Tuesday.

"This is not the final figure. It is expected to change when we have more comprehensive reports on the extent of the damage," the spokesman said.

More than 102,000 houses and buildings were completely or partially destroyed in Japan's worst earthquake since 1923.

The earthquake also caused heavy damage to port facilities, expressways and railroads.

Two more bodies were found in a massive search in Kobe, raising the confirmed death toll from the earthquake to 5,094 with 13 others missing, the National Police Agency said Monday.

The agency also said 26,798 people had been injured and 99,515 buildings and houses had been destroyed or damaged in the quake, which registered 7.2 on the Richter scale, and in aftershocks and fires.

Meanwhile, quake survivors housed in unheated shelters in Kobe Monday faced a new hardship — low temperatures and strong winds expected to last over the next few days.

Monday's high barely reached 5 degrees Celsius (41 degrees Fahrenheit), and the Central Meteorological Agency had forecast winds would reach 54 kph (32 mph) in Kobe and surrounding areas.

The rough weather is bad news for the more than 200,000 survivors from the Jan. 17 quake who are packed into chilly homeless shelters in and around Kobe. Many are suffering from flu and colds.

The quake devastated the city's economy. Mitsukoshi Ltd., a leading Japanese department store, announced Monday it will sell 700 million yen (\$7 million) in land assets to cover some of its quake losses.

Small and medium-sized businesses were especially hard hit. Local officials in Kobe said Monday they had asked Tokyo for help in setting up factories to allow some producers to go back to work.

So far, 1,544 small and medium-sized companies have asked the government and banks for credits to rebuild their businesses, said Yoshinaru Fujiwara of Hyogo prefecture. Under emergency laws, the government will extend credits with an annual interest rate starting at 3 per cent, Mr. Fujiwara said.

Father, Four Weddings top U.K. film awards

LONDON (AP) — In The Name Of The Father was named the year's best film and Four Weddings And A Funeral won a further top three awards in the annual Evening Standard Film Awards. Four Weddings star Hugh Grant, winner of the Peter Sellers Award for Best Comic Performance, said he was thrilled to receive the award since he was "not even that accustomed to having a job."

Grant accepted his award via satellite from Los Angeles, where last week he won a Golden Globe prize for the same film for best actor in a musical or comedy.

Other Four Weddings winners were Kristin Scott Thomas for best actress and Richard Curtis for best screenplay. In a droll acceptance speech, Curtis assessed his own script as "a friendly little war-bog. Best actor went to Ben Kingsley for Schindler's List, the Steven Spielberg film about the Holocaust that swept the Oscars last year. Best Picture was In The Name Of The Father, Jim Sheridan's film with Daniel Day Lewis as Gerry Conlon, the Belfast man cleared of an Irish Republican Army bombing. A special prize went to Sir Alec Guinness for an illustrious career embracing films from Oliver Twist and King Hearts And Coronets to Star Wars. Guinness received two standing ovations from the black tie crowd at the Savoy Hotel. The awards are named for the Evening Standard, London's longest-established afternoon newspaper. They are given annually to British talent regardless of the nationality of the films in which the talent appeared.

Giant cinema posters go on display

NICOSIA (AFP) — A display of giant cinema posters painted between 1945 and 1975 in Greece, Cyprus and Egypt has opened here before moving to Paris to mark the centenary of cinema. The display groups around 50 posters of up to 15 metres in height, painted to advertise Greek films produced in Athens and Egypt and cinema classics such as Tom Sawyer, Intermesse and Last Tango in Paris. Hinge portraits of stars such as Marlon Brando, Ingrid Bergman and Stewart Granger are also on display. Organiser Maro Vlassopoulos said "most of these artists were doing this work, which has now disappeared, to earn a living." Some were even "ashamed" to put their names to their work.

Zoo keepers baby sit shell shocked ape

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Zoo keepers are having to baby-sit a 53-year-old female ape which was shell-shocked when Japanese forces invaded Singapore in World War II. Mawwas, one of the world's oldest orangutans in captivity, is terrified of fireworks, thunderstorms and planes which sometimes fly over her home at Perth Zoo, Australian Associated Press reported. Zoo curator Rosemary Markham said the normally docile primate makes roaring noises, screams and bangs on her enclosure walls. She will refuse to eat for up to 10 days. Mawwas was born in the wilds of a South East Asian jungle around 1941. It is likely hunters captured her as an infant after they shot her mother. She was later kept in a cage at the Sultan of Johore's palace which overlooks Singapore island from the southern tip of the Malay peninsula. Singapore, then a stronghold of the British Empire, was captured by Japanese forces in 1942. "We reckon the reason she's so frightened of fireworks, and also... planes which fly over is because of the bombing of Singapore," said Dr. Markham. "She would have been in the Sultan's palace across from the city when the bombing took place." Mawwas was transferred to Perth, in Western Australia, in 1968. Dr. Markham said her nervous condition erupted 11 years ago when the city staged an annual fireworks display nearby. Each year the show became bigger and louder making her reaction more severe. Last week her keeper sat with her throughout the three-hour show. "He just sits and talks to her," said Dr. Markham, adding that the attention reduced her agitation.

Burma expands offensive against rebels

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Burmese forces were attacking Monday the last major Karen base in the northern sector of their onepotent insurgency and moving against guerrilla bases to the south. Thai military and aid sources said.

Some of the leaders of the ethnic rebel movement, along with thousands of followers, have already fled to Thailand, and more refugees are expected.

Thai Foreign Minister Tak-sin Shinawatra said Sunday that the refugees would be granted temporary asylum.

The headquarters of the Karen National Union, at Manerplaw, about 240 kilometres (150 miles) east of Rangoon, fell to government troops Thursday night after six days of fighting.

Thai border patrol police officers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Karen had also lost six other bases along the Thai-Burmese border in the areas north and south of Manerplaw.

The officers said Burmese were pressing hard against the stronghold of Kawnoora and had also opened up another front against the Karen further south opposite the Thai province of Kanchanaburi. Nearly 1,000 refugees were reported already inside Kanchanaburi and more Karen villages were being evacuated in face of the Burmese advance.

The Karen — who field some 4,000 guerrillas — were the strongest of what were once more than a dozen ethnic insurgencies fighting for greater autonomy from the military-run central government. The Karen rebellion first erupted 46 years ago, making it one of the world's longest-lasting insurgencies.

But in recent years the Rangoon government has been able to put down or negotiate peace deals with most of the guerrillas except the Karen who were joined by pro-democracy groups after the military brutally put down an anti-military uprising in 1988.

An official of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), an opposition alliance including the Karen, said morale remained "pretty high."

Euroceptics gain ground in British government

LONDON (AFP) — British Euroceptics, opposed to any thought of European unity, appeared to be gaining ground Monday within a government whose majority appears to be visibly shifting to their side.

At a time when Prime Minister John Major stands accused of becoming a hostage to the Europhobes in his cabinet, the British press is reporting that hardline Europhiles such as Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd are being shunted aside.

A relatively innocuous speech by European Commission President Jacques Santer touched off a row on the weekend over preparations for the 1996 intergovernmental Conference that is supposed to revise the

Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Mr. Santer had proposed a green paper this year on transitional conditions for a single European currency.

Employment Secretary Michael Portillo, Euroceptic standard-bearer and favourite of the government's Thatcherites, who was also at Davos, immediately responded that Mr. Santer's proposal was "not a proposition that we could recommend for Britain."

The British cabinet, he said, had already agreed to veto any attempt to dilute the powers of national parliaments.

Australian opposition reelects former leader

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's liberal opposition Monday reelected former leader John Howard, who immediately signalled he would campaign on Prime Minister Paul Keating's economic troubles.

"From this day on the debate returns... to those millions of Australians who simply cannot understand how it is that after virtually five minutes of economic sunlight they are again being banged on the head with high interest rates and rising taxation," Howard told reporters.

Mr. Keating's Labour government stunned analysts when it won the 1993 election with the unemployment rate above 11 per cent.

But the economy is now growing far too quickly, and Mr. Keating has had to raise interest rates and is expected to raise taxes.

Mr. Howard, whom a party meeting elected unopposed after former leader Alexander Downer quit late last week, sought to soften his image, which has been seen as too conservative for Australian voters.

He still believes in the social importance of the family and, in economics, reward for individual effort, he said.

"I've always believed in a safety net for those amongst us who don't make it," he said Monday.

And, distancing himself from his controversial call in the late-1980s for less Asian immigration, he added: "I believe very passionately in an Australia drawn of people from the four corners of the earth but united together behind the common set of Australian values."

Mr. Howard, a monarchist,

also softened his previous stand against Mr. Keating's push for Australia to become a republic, dropping Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state.

"As is well known, I have been and I remain a supporter of the present constitution but I recognise that it is not a view that everybody in the Australian community holds," he said.

The Liberals, and their coalition partner the Nationals, are now pinning their hopes of ending 12 years in opposition on Mr. Howard, who came close to winning an election in 1987.

A Sydney Morning Herald opinion poll conducted on the weekend reported voter support for the opposition surging after Mr. Downer quit and Mr. Howard became his sure successor.

The opposition polled 44 per cent support, compared with the government's 40 per cent. A month before the opposition had trailed the government with 40 per cent support to 45 per cent.

However, Australian voters usually respond enthusiastically to new leaders in the first few months after their appointment.

A general election must be held by mid-1996.

Mr. Downer quit after only eight months as opposition leader, a record for brevity, when it became clear last week that Mr. Howard had enough support in the party to remove him.

Mr. Downer had not performed well, making little lasting impact on opinion polls.

But his deputy, the economically hardline Peter Costello, retained his position at Monday's party meeting.

Rally called after 12 die in S. Africa clashes

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Mideast's at a South African gold mine stayed away from work Monday after clashes between rival factions left 12 people dead and 83 injured, mine owners Anglo American said.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) called for a large rally during the day, the South African news agency (SAPA) reported, adding that miners were being disarmed of their clubs and sticks.

Four people died in fighting overnight Saturday and another six were killed Sunday morning as rival factions of miners battled at a hotel at Vaal Reef gold mine near Orkney in the north-west Province.

Anglo spokesman James Duncan said in a statement here that another two bodies were found in hotel number eight, which houses some 9,000 miners, Sunday afternoon.

Twenty-one injured miners were admitted to hospital and another 62 treated for minor injuries, Duncan added.

A mine official said on the radio Monday that the site and the workers' hostels were calm.

China warns Taiwan against independence

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin urged Taiwan Monday to renounce any independence claims, accusing certain "foreign forces" of meddling in the issue and thereby impeding reunification with the island.

"We remain committed to the principle that there is only one China and are against activities in Taiwan that support 'one China, one Taiwan,'" said Mr. Jiang, warning that Beijing would not hesitate to use force to preserve its sovereignty over the island.

Mr. Jiang, who is moving to shore up his position at the core of the Chinese leadership as the health of 90-year-old patriarch Deng Xiaoping fails, made the lengthy speech at a Lunar New Year gathering here.

"What the entire Chinese people should watch out for is the growing separatist tendency and the increasing rampant activities of the forces working for the 'independence of Taiwan' on the island in recent years," Xinhua quoted Mr. Jiang as saying.

While Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party support reunification and President Lee Teng-Hui has strongly denied any move in favour of formally splitting with China, the growing political clout of the island's pro-independence

opposition has sparked Beijing's concern.

Mr. Jiang also said that "certain foreign forces have further meddled in the issue of Taiwan, interfering in China's internal affairs. All this not only impedes the process of China's peaceful reunification but also threatens peace, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region."

He mentioned no names, but China has had run-ins with the United States and Japan over Taiwan in the past year, while Taipei's recent application to rejoin the United Nations, from which it was ousted in Beijing's favour in 1971, has convinced the leadership here of a hidden agenda.

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the nationalists fled to the island after losing a civil war to the Communists on the mainland in 1949.

It bans nations with which it has diplomatic relations from maintaining official ties with Taipei.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's September decision to ease a ban on high-level exchanges subsequent visits to Taiwan by senior officials angered Beijing, which slammed the moves as a "serious violation" of Sino-U.S. agreements.

Ties between China and Japan were also hit by

Tokyo's decision to allow senior Taiwanese representation at October's Asian Games, prompting Beijing to allege that "a handful of people in Japan are trying to develop substantial relations with Taiwan."

"Private" visits by senior Taiwanese leaders — reflecting the island's intensified efforts to use its growing economic clout to boost its international status — have also drawn Beijing's ire.

Taiwan has diplomatic ties with only 29 nations.

Taipei reacted quickly to Mr. Jiang's remarks, with the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council saying the "warning, made on the eve of the Chinese New Year, was not only lacking new meaning, but was also highly unfriendly and could never help improve cross-strait relations."

Meanwhile, Governor Chris Patten looked forward Monday to better cooperation with China in the Year of the Pig as Hong Kong speeds towards its 1997 change of sovereignty.

"We want to work better and more successfully with our Chinese colleagues," Mr. Patten said in his annual Lunar New Year broadcast as families gathered for traditional banquets.

Deng ends tradition of New Year appearance

BEIJING (R) — China's 90-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping Monday ended a tradition of appearing on television on Lunar New Year's Eve, fuelling speculation his health was declining.

The main evening television news broadcast made no mention of Mr. Deng's whereabouts. China's reclusive patriarch, who is said to enjoy the warmer weather of Shanghai, has travelled to the city for the lunar holidays for the past seven years.

It had been Mr. Deng's tradition to appear briefly on television on Lunar New Year's Eve, but his family may feel that the risks of being seen as a feeble shadow of his former self now outweigh those of not showing.

Last Saturday, senior Chinese leaders visited Deng at his home to wish him a long and healthy life, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

But no newspaper photographs or television clippings of the meeting have been shown, deepening the mystery about Mr. Deng's deteriorating health.

Other retired but still powerful octogenarians also received holiday greetings from the current leadership

ahead of the year of the pig, which begins Tuesday, Xinhua said.

"If the emperor (Deng) cannot make a television appearance on New Year's Eve for health or other reasons, his contemporaries also do not make any appearances," a Chinese political analyst said in a recent interview.

The elderly powerbrokers, including Mr. Deng's arch-rival Chen Yun, are the last who will have political legitimacy bestowed on them by having fought in the revolution that brought the Communist Party to power in 1949.

On Mr. Deng's last public outing at a Shanghai Lunar New Year reception a year ago, which was televised nationally, he appeared almost deaf, spoke in a whisper and had such difficulty walking he had to be supported by daughters holding each arm.

Those images, which showed Mr. Deng's hands trembling, giving substance to rumours he is suffering from Parkinson's disease, alarmed ordinary Chinese.

Mr. Deng's daughter, Deng Rong, told the New York Times this month that

her father's health was declining "day by day," but sought to calm intense speculation in a new interview by denying that Mr. Deng could no longer stand or walk.

The Times article and other Western and Japanese reports describing Mr. Deng's health as deteriorating have sparked a frenzy in the sensitive Hong Kong Stock Market that his death was imminent.

On Jan. 12, a Shanghai newspaper printed a black and white picture of Mr. Deng, the first glimpse the Chinese public has had of Mr. Deng since February last year.

The black and white picture on the front page of the Liberation Daily showed Mr. Deng seated and watching a fireworks display at Beijing's Zhongnanhai leadership compound on the Oct. 1 National Day last year.

Mr. Deng was wrapped in a coat and was wearing a cloth hat, but the picture was too fuzzy to be able to see if he were gaunt and frail or healthy.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported from Washington Monday that a U.S. Defence Department study has

warned that China "is up for grabs" after the death of its 90-year-old paramount leader.

The study, China In The Near Term, warned that "China is the major uncertainty in Asia's future," according to the newspaper.

It said the report was prepared by experts following a request from the department's policy section. The newspaper said it was declassified last week.

The report warned there was a 50-50 chance China could disintegrate after Mr. Deng's death.

China maintains that Mr. Deng is in good health for a man of his age. The official policy is that the government and Communist Party are already united around the new generation of leaders that has President Jiang Zemin as its core.

The report, however, appeared to dispute this optimistic picture.

"The group believed there was a 50-50 chance that China would disintegrate under a post-Deng diffused leadership and internal conflict. Power in general will gravitate away from the centre," the newspaper quoted it as saying.

Father, Four Weddings top U.K. film awards

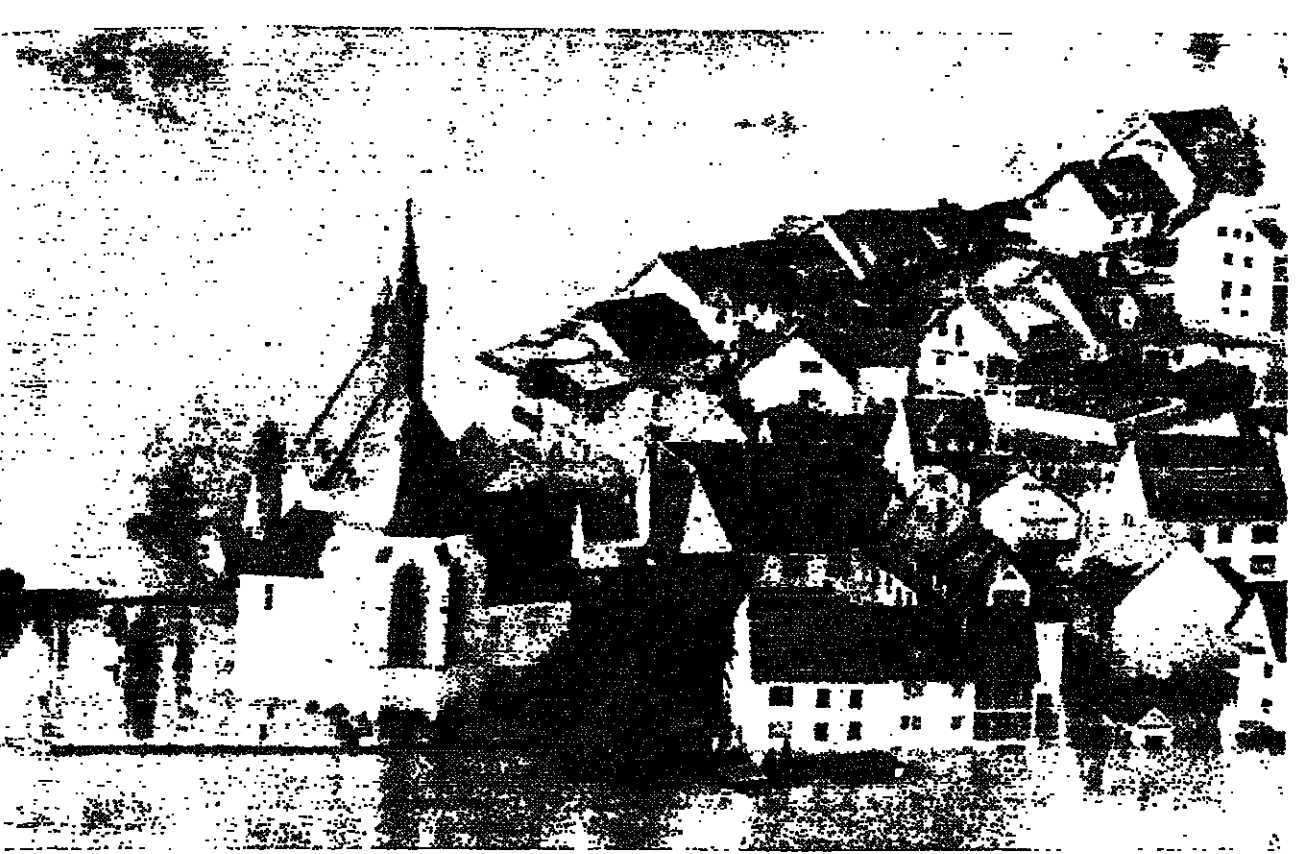
LONDON (AP) — The Name of the Father, named the best film, and Four Weddings and a Funeral won the best comedy award at the British Academy Awards. The ceremony was held at the Royal Opera House in London. The film Name of the Father, directed by Peter Jackson, won the best film award. It is a New Zealand film about a man who is accused of murdering his father. Four Weddings and a Funeral, a romantic comedy directed by Nick Park, won the best comedy award. Other winners include The Piano for best foreign language film, and The Usual Suspects for best screenplay. The ceremony was attended by a large number of celebrities and film industry figures.

Giant cinema posters go on display

NICOSIA (AP) — A giant cinema poster for the film The Usual Suspects is on display in Nicosia. The poster is one of the largest ever made and is made of many small pieces of paper. It is on display at the Nicosia Museum. The film The Usual Suspects is a thriller directed by Bryan Singer. It is about a man who is accused of murdering a powerful businessman. The poster is a large black and white image of the film's main characters.

Zoo keepers baby sit shell shocked ape

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Zoo keepers are baby sitting a 25-year-old male orangutan who was shot dead by a poacher. The orangutan was found dead in a cage at the Perth Zoo. The poacher was a man from Indonesia. The zoo keepers are now looking for a new home for the orangutan. The orangutan was a very popular animal at the zoo and many people loved to see it. The zoo keepers are now trying to find a way to help the orangutan and its family.



The St. George's Church (left) and surrounding buildings in Koblenz-Niederwerth, Germany, are overflooded by the waters of the Rhine River. The level of the river has risen above the dangerous nine-metres mark, with experts fearing that the situation in the region will remain tense due to intensive rainfalls expected the next few days (AFP photo)

Floods spread as Rhine reaches record height

COLOGNE, Germany (Agencies) — The mighty Rhine reached a record level in Cologne Monday, overwhelming the old city centre in Germany's worst floods this century and wreaking havoc. The rain-swollen river reached a height of 10.64 metres at the foot of the Cologne cathedral round 10:00 a.m. (0900 GMT) after rising at the rate of a centimetre an hour since dawn, the city's flood warning centre said. This exceeds a previous record level of 10.63 metres set only 13 months previously, at Christmas 1993, and many districts were entirely under water. In the old city, buildings had water up to the first floor. The level was expected to reach 10.70 metres by mid-night, and some 2,000 municipal workers were trying to cope with the catastrophe. People were entering and leaving their homes by boat and through the windows, or by specially erected elevated walkways, and the town "looked like Venice after a high tide," one witness said. City officials said 151,000 bags containing a total 625 tonnes of sand had been deployed to try to protect the town centre, where practically all shops and services were closed. In Bonn too, the river exceeded 10 metres in height Monday and was close to its previous record high, with flooding widespread in the government quarter, town centre and residential areas. The river was close to twice its width in some places, with ducks swimming in the roads and firemen working round the clock to pump water out of critical facilities in low-lying areas. Several major roads in the region were closed, including the Bonn-Koblenz Highway and Oberhausen-Hannover Motorway near Dortmund, and rail transport was affected too. Trains between Cologne and Mainz were diverted. All traffic on the Rhine, one of Europe's major freightways, has been halted for the last six days. Other rivers in western and south-western Germany have also broken their banks and caused serious floods and disruption. The situation remained critical on the Mosel and Main tributaries, officials said. The situation had eased at Koblenz, where the Main meets the Rhine, but further flooding was feared there, and along the Mosel. Hundreds of Koblenz residents have already been evacuated, and some small towns have been cut off. At least four people have died so far in over a week of floods in Germany. In northern France the Meuse River broke all flood records in Charleville-Mézières, capital of the Ardennes Monday, forcing evacuation of homes and an old people's home, school closures and factory lay-offs. The river passed the six metre (20 feet) mark, reaching 6.06 metres compared with the 1993 record of 5.78 metres. In Paris, government spokesman Philippe Douste-Blazy said 15 people had died and five more were missing in the past 10 days of flooding, according to the emergency services. First estimates of material damage were 40,000 homes flooded, 5,000 people evacuated and nearly half a million people without drinking water. Another 10,000 homes had their telephones cut off and 8,000 workers had been laid off due to the floods. The only remaining road into Charleville was closed to traffic Monday and the city's three bridges were impassable. Authorities said at least 2,000 homes in the region had been flooded. In Paris, the Seine continued to rise Monday, reaching 4.95 metres, and was expected to exceed five metres during the day. In Belgium, the Meuse washed over the cities of Namur and Dinant, about 60 kilometres (35 miles) south of Brussels, flooding out 3,500 families in the Namur area alone. Two people died in Belgian floods over the weekend and more than 9,000 people have left their homes in the southern province of Limburg where the waters of the River Maas (Meuse) spilled into a 150 kilometre long strip of land, flooding many towns and villages. Limburg officials expect at least another 7,000 people to be evacuated over the next few days. "This is the biggest Dutch evacuation for 40 years... since 1953 when the sea dykes broke in Zeeland," said Jan Meijer, spokesman for the Interior Ministry in the Hague, which is coordinating the national evacuation. "The evacuation in the neighbourhood of Nijmegen is unique. There's been nothing like it there since World War II," he added. Officials said the current Dutch evacuation was already bigger than in December 1993 when floods caused 250 million guilders (\$147 million) worth of damage and forced the evacuation of more than 8,000 people. Almost 3,000 homes were under water in Limburg and another 6,000 were threatened by rising water levels, Limburg province spokesman Paul T'Am said. As the flooding spread eastwards into Gelderland, officials in the Maas and Waal district issued an urgent appeal for people to leave.



Residents of the "Manchester" neighbourhood of the eastern town of Charleville-Mézières use footbridges and boats as the Meuse River rose to 5.88m, 10cm higher than its previous highest level recorded in 1993 (AFP photo)

U.S. eager to see N. Zealand back in allies' fold

WELLINGTON (R) — The United States hopes New Zealand can again become an ally despite differences over Wellington's strongly entrenched anti-nuclear policies. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Monday. Mr. Talbott, the most senior U.S. official to visit Wellington in a decade, began a 24-hour visit amid high New Zealand hopes of a White House invitation for Prime Minister Jim Bolger. Relations between the two sides soured in the 1980s when a Labour government under Prime Minister David Lange banned nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed vessels from New Zealand's territorial waters. Ties have warmed considerably in the past 12 months but with no sign of any softening in the anti-nuclear stand that is backed across New Zealand's political spectrum and enjoys overwhelming public support. "I think it's an issue on which we need to keep talking to each other," Mr. Talbott told reporters before starting talks with Foreign Minister Don McKinnon. "This is an area in which we still have some work to do. We are very, very good friends, but we hope in due course we can return the status of being good allies," he said. Washington has lifted an earlier freeze on top-level diplomatic ties with New Zealand, but the latter remains suspended from the three-way ANZUS alliance with the United States and Australia. U.S. ships cannot visit New Zealand because of the "neither confirm nor deny" policy whereby Washington refuses to disclose the nuclear capability of its vessels. New Zealand for its part, remains barred from joint military exercises or intelligence-sharing. Mr. Talbott declined to say whether he had brought with him a White House invitation for Mr. Bolger, who would be the first New Zealand leader to go there since Sir Robert Muldoon in 1984 if invited. "The Clinton administration is committed to restoring this relationship to its traditional standing as one of the very best relations we have in the world," Mr. Talbott said. Mr. McKinnon said security and trade issues would feature prominently in discussions. He wasted no time, even before the main session of talks, in raising New Zealand's concern over Washington's planned sale of heavily subsidised dairy products to Asia and Latin America. The newspaper Le Monde has said Washington would take the lead in the project, dubbed Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS), footing half the cost and leaving the French and Germans to pay the rest. The military source said Paris was at the same time conducting studies with Britain and Italy on a less ambitious anti-missile system. "We might only have a minor role and be completely dominated," he said. The newspaper Le Monde has said Washington would take the lead in the project, dubbed Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS), footing half the cost and leaving the French and Germans to pay the rest. The military source said Paris was at the same time conducting studies with Britain and Italy on a less ambitious anti-missile system. "We might only have a minor role and be completely dominated," he said.

U.S., France and Germany eye anti-missile missile

PARIS (R) — The United States, France and Germany have begun talks about possible joint design and production of an anti-missile missile, a senior French military source said Monday. "Exchanges are now under way at a senior experts' level to see if we can produce together a system to defend, not countries, but sensitive areas and military installations against incoming missiles," the source said. "The main problem is cost because neither France or Germany, nor perhaps even the United States, can foot the bill for such a project alone." France's interest in anti-missile missiles was born of the Gulf war in which U.S.-made Patriot anti-aircraft missiles were used to intercept Iraqi Scud rockets fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia. The joint Franco-German-U.S. project would aim to develop a more advanced defence systems, coordinated with spotter intelligence satellites. One French expert estimated it could cost 200 billion francs (\$37 billion). "The United States has already spent a lot on research and development of such systems and indeed already has a satellite detection system to spot missile firings," the French military source said. "As a result, frankly, the Europeans are a bit worried that in entering such a project, we might only have a minor role and be completely dominated."

900 shells rock Bihac enclave

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's northwestern Bihac enclave has been rocked by the fiercest shelling since a shaky nationwide truce took effect a month ago, the United Nations said Monday. U.N. officials said the Muslim-led Bosnian army, which last week lost some ground, appeared to be gaining the upper hand and putting rebel Muslim and Serb forces on the defensive. U.N. spokesman Major Koos Sol told Reuters shelling persisted overnight south and southeast of the town of Velika Kladusa, where about 900 artillery and mortar explosions were reported in the past 24 hours. Most shells appeared to come from Croatian Serb positions and forces loyal to Muslim business tycoon Fikret Abdić. The Bosnian government army, which is fighting off the rebels, also fired about 150 mortar bombs. Bangladeshi U.N. troops in Velika Kladusa reported seeing civilians fleeing the contested area and heading into the town. Bosnia's main warring factions signed a ceasefire which came into effect on Jan. 1 and has stopped most fighting. But Serbs from Croatia's Krajina region, who have advanced across the border into the Bihac enclave, ignored the truce, as did Mr. Abdić's forces. A U.N. evacuation of nearly 200 war casualties from a Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia, planned for Monday, may be postponed for 24 hours, Bosnian Serb officials said. The Bosnian Serb News Agency said the evacuation from Gorazde was held up by "technical and administrative delays." The United Nations said it was seeking clearance from Bosnian Serb authorities. Representatives from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held talks in the Serb headquarters of Pale outside Sarajevo. The United Nations hoped to use helicopters and ambulances to get the patients out. "At this moment we don't have anything in hand," said a UNHCR official. "We're expecting to get the permission later today." Serb officials said U.N. doctor Fausto Mariani was due to meet Bosnian Serb Vice-President Nikola Koljetic to discuss discrepancies in the list of patients submitted for evacuation. U.N. and Bosnian Serb military officers were also discussing how the evacuation would be carried out. The local Serb authorities in the Gorazde area had already agreed to the evacuation of 128 Muslims and 66 Serbs. "It is the first time in nearly two and a half years of fighting that the warring parties in Gorazde have placed their signatures on the same agreement," U.N. spokesman Alex Ivanko said. The evacuation is seen by the U.N. as an important test of the Serbs' attitude to the New Year ceasefire, which provides for freedom of movement for the UNHCR in carrying out medical evacuations. U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward told the reporters that French U.N. soldiers fired warning shots Saturday evening at 40 Bosnian soldiers trying to enter a demilitarised zone on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo. Four government army soldiers were slightly wounded by the French fire. Col. Coward said the U.N. was acting according to orders to resist deliberate military incursions into the area. Reluctance by the Bosnian army to vacate the demilitarised zone has angered the Serbs and caused delays in implementing key aspects of the ceasefire agreement. In Zagreb, international mediators presented Croatian leaders with a proposal aimed at ending a four-year conflict between the Croatian government and its rebel Serb minority. The plan, drafted by a group called the "Zagreb four", comprising U.S., Russian, United Nations and European envoys, is intended to be the final stage of a three-phase peace process that followed a six-month war in 1991. After presenting the plan to the Croatian authorities, mediators were scheduled to travel to the Serb headquarters at Knin to show Serb leaders the proposal. Serbs occupied one third of Croatia, known as Krajina, after they rebelled against Croatia's declaration of independence from former Yugoslavia in 1991.

Berlusconi group to abstain in Senate vote

ROME (AP) — Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi's party and allies will likely abstain from the Senate confirmation vote on Premier Lamberto Dini's government, set for Wednesday. Leaders of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia Party and allies the right-wing National Alliance and a small group of ex-Christian Democrats indicated Monday that their senators would follow the same strategy the allies used last week in the confidence vote in the lower Chamber of Deputies. In that vote, Mr. Dini's non-partisan government won confirmation thanks to the abstention of the bloc led by Mr. Berlusconi and his allies. Even without the abstentions, Mr. Dini was likely to have an easier time of it in the Senate than in the Chamber since Mr. Berlusconi and his allies were just short of a majority after the elections last March which brought Mr. Berlusconi and his Freedom Alliance to power. Debate in the Senate was scheduled to begin in the early evening, and the vote was expected for Wednesday. The allies held out if Mr. Dini changes his mind and "behaves like a gentleman" by setting a date for elections, as Mr. Berlusconi has demanded, they might vote for Mr. Dini instead of abstaining. Giulio Macerati, National Alliance's leader in the Senate, was quoted as telling the Italian News Agency (AGI). Mr. Berlusconi resigned in December after the leader of one of his allies, Umberto Bossi of the Northern League, joined the leftist opposition in no-confidence motions in the chamber. Mr. Dini, Mr. Berlusconi's treasury minister and a former central banker, formed a government on Jan. 17 by drawing on professors, legal experts and other "technocrats," although resisting Mr. Berlusconi's call to set a date for elections. Mr. Dini has said his government would likely last only a few months, the time needed in his view to carry out deficit-trimming measures such as pension reform, new taxes, and enact anti-trust reforms. Anti-trust reform could force Mr. Berlusconi to give up control of part of his media empire, which includes three TV networks and magazines. Meanwhile Gianfranco Fini was elected president of Italy's right-wing National Alliance Sunday, two days after the party's main constituent, the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), voted itself out of existence. Mr. Fini obtained 1,507 out of 1,679 votes cast by delegates at the Alliance's congress in this town south of Rome. The other ballots were blank or spoiled in the vote, which concluded the two-day forum. Mr. Fini, the only leadership candidate, led the drive to dissolve the MSI, which he himself headed, to bring the Alliance into the mainstream of Italian politics.

Dublin ready to free more IRA prisoners

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish government is poised to release more IRA prisoners in a controversial gesture to underpin the Anglo-Irish push for a Northern Ireland peace settlement, sources close to the peace process said Monday. They said as many as six of the 30 Irish Republican Army (IRA) activists held in Ireland could be freed in coming weeks as a further reward to Sinn Féin, the IRA's political arm, for its part in securing a guerrilla ceasefire last September. Justice Minister Nora Owen freed nine IRA prisoners last December after their release by the previous government was rescinded because of an IRA robbery in which a postal worker was killed in the Northern Irish town of Newry last November. Their freedom was granted in a Christmas goodwill gesture when Prime Minister John Bruton's coalition government came to power after the collapse of the previous administration. Britain refuses to free any guerrillas in Northern Ireland as a political gesture and has shunned appeals to declare an amnesty for hundreds of IRA prisoners. Mr. Dini, Mr. Berlusconi's treasury minister and a former central banker, formed a government on Jan. 17 by drawing on professors, legal experts and other "technocrats," although resisting Mr. Berlusconi's call to set a date for elections. Mr. Dini has said his government would likely last only a few months, the time needed in his view to carry out deficit-trimming measures such as pension reform, new taxes, and enact anti-trust reforms. Anti-trust reform could force Mr. Berlusconi to give up control of part of his media empire, which includes three TV networks and magazines. Meanwhile Gianfranco Fini was elected president of Italy's right-wing National Alliance Sunday, two days after the party's main constituent, the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), voted itself out of existence. Mr. Fini obtained 1,507 out of 1,679 votes cast by delegates at the Alliance's congress in this town south of Rome. The other ballots were blank or spoiled in the vote, which concluded the two-day forum. Mr. Fini, the only leadership candidate, led the drive to dissolve the MSI, which he himself headed, to bring the Alliance into the mainstream of Italian politics. John Taylor, a leading Unionist legislator, told Irish Radio such a gesture would be inappropriate because no progress had been made towards dismantling the IRA's huge arsenal of guns and explosives. He said the IRA could re-start its war against British rule "at a moment's notice" and was still carrying out dummy guerrilla attacks, targeting potential victims and conducting reconnaissance missions. He said those freed by Ms. Owen last December were within weeks or months of completing their sentences but the batch now being considered for early release still had years to serve. "Many of them would not be out until 1997. That is going much too far," said Mr. Taylor, whose Ulster Unionist Party opposes any dilution or Northern Ireland's British status. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, accuses Britain of dragging its feet over a Northern Ireland peace settlement and has called for a prisoner amnesty as a step towards consolidating the Anglo-Irish peace drive. The IRA and its Protestant adversaries announced ceasefires last year after the December 1993 Downing Street Declaration by London and Dublin which laid the basis for a settlement of the Northern Ireland conflict. Meanwhile a former British minister said Monday Mr. Adams took a brave step and the world should be grateful. Former Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke said: "In my view, he was a brave man, and I hope they will be justified." M. Brooke said, "That step (the ceasefire) was a crucial step. I describe it myself as a rubicon." Former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds told the BBC Television programme Mr. Major did not believe him when he predicted the Irish Republican Army ceasefire in its war against British rule of Northern Ireland. The programme highlighted Mr. Adams' metamorphosis from the leader — reviled by many — of the IRA's banned party Sinn Féin to a savvy political negotiator. Mr. Brooke, who first coaxed Protestant and Catholic political leaders to talks in 1990, said Mr. Adams took a courageous step. "And I think the whole of Ireland and the whole of these islands, and I think arguably the whole of the world is grateful to him for having done it," Mr. Brooke told BBC's Panorama.



Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams attending the annual Bloody Sunday commemoration rally in Londonderry (AFP photo)

Human error causes Chernobyl shutdown

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Nervous operators at the Chernobyl nuclear power station caused a shutdown in the same reactor last October. "People handled it badly," said Mikhail Dyachenko, the chief operator at Ukraine's Nuclear Power Committee. "They clearly acted unprofessionally. The apparent reason is that the plant personnel had been overworked in the winter conditions." The shutdown left Chernobyl with only one reactor still operating normally. Reactor No. 2 has been shut down since a fire in 1991. Reactor No. 4, which exploded in 1986, has been encased in a steel-and-concrete "sarcophagus." The shutdown will worsen Ukraine's already severe energy shortage, which has caused authorities to turn off street lights, reduce power to factories and cut off power to entire cities periodically. The United States and the European Union, concerned by recurring accidents and reports of growing fissures in the sarcophagus over reactor No. 4, have repeatedly urged Ukraine to close Chernobyl. But cash-strapped Ukraine badly needs the electricity normally generated by the plant's two functioning reactors, which produce about 7 per cent of the nation's energy. Ukrainian officials have said they would need \$12 billion to close Chernobyl. The shutdown will worsen Ukraine's already severe energy shortage, which has caused authorities to turn off street lights, reduce power to factories and cut off power to entire cities periodically. The United States and the European Union, concerned by recurring accidents and reports of growing fissures in the sarcophagus over reactor No. 4, have repeatedly urged Ukraine to close Chernobyl. But cash-strapped Ukraine badly needs the electricity normally generated by the plant's two functioning reactors, which produce about 7 per cent of the nation's energy. Ukrainian officials have said they would need \$12 billion to close Chernobyl.

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Nuclear double standards

WITH THE nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) coming up for review in April, the West wants to extend the treaty's application indefinitely. This will require the support of a majority of the 169 nations which joined the NPT since its inception in 1970, in addition to that of states which are being asked to join in an effort to contain the nuclear threat, if not root it out altogether.

There is, therefore, behind the scene negotiations and pressures to secure a majority of support in an effort to save NPT from the danger of lapsing into extinction for lack of universal endorsement. The principal difficulty facing the sponsors of the NPT lies squarely in the fact that the quid pro quo struck between the nuclear powers and the rest of the world has been frustrated by the unwillingness of the nuclear states, which enjoy a monopoly on the development and acquisition of nuclear weapons, to live up to their side of the bargain.

The central objective of the NPT has been the commitment by nuclear nations to work diligently in the direction of total nuclear disarmament in addition to the prevention of the spread of nuclear arms technologies. In return the other countries have committed themselves to abstaining from the development, acquisition or use of nuclear or thermonuclear bombs. That intended equilibrium has been distorted, though. It has been frustrated by the big powers which not only failed to realise nuclear disarmament but helped their most trusted allies to acquire the technology. The best evidence of this failure is the part of the nuclear powers is the continuation of their nuclear testing, albeit underground, and the fact that the deployment of nuclear bombs remained the mainstay of their military strategies. In the process, the raison d'être behind the NPT became nullified with the have-nots now questioning, and with considerable legitimacy, the justification for allowing or blessing the present monopoly that the big nations enjoy over nuclear weapons while denying the same right to others.

This anomaly is all the more evident in the Middle East where Israel enjoys a monopoly of nuclear arms and is determined to prevent others in the region from having the same capability. No wonder Egypt and other Arab countries are making bones about this Israeli monopoly and are increasingly insistent on applying one standard on all the countries of the region as a sine qua non for their adherence to the NPT in the future. In the current era that sees increasing peace realised between Israel and the Arabs, there can be no more valid excuse for the current Israeli posture. Likewise unless the major nuclear powers live up to their end of the bargain, it is going to be an uphill battle for them convincing the vast non-nuclear states to stay denuclearised for much longer.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily congratulated Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on winning a vote of confidence from parliament and praised the government's orientation towards enhancing democracy and its intention to pursue reform at all levels and deal with chronic issues plaguing the country. The paper said Jordanians now look up to the government to implement its programmes and execute the directives of His Majesty the King with courage and firmness. While looking forward to the translation of promises into facts and realities, the people of Jordan hope that Sharif Zeid and his team will spare no effort to serve the nation not only at the domestic front but also with regard to external matters at the regional and the international levels, said the paper. While recognising the grave responsibility of the new government in the peace era, it added, Jordanians are expected to back its endeavours; and parliament ought to ensure full cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities to achieve the aspired goals.

The View from Fourth Circle

Big flags, big fears and bigger historical lessons

By Rami G. Khouri

THE ISRAELI government's new talk about "separation" between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the agreements reached between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) last week could: a) bring about an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian lands, b) speed up resolution of the complex issue of the status of Israeli settlements, and c) crystallise coherent, mutually satisfying relationships among Palestine, Jordan and Israel.

Jordan and Israel, through their recently signed peace treaty, have already defined their willingness to coexist in mutual respect and peace. The talk of separation and the Jordan-PNA accords may now permit the definition of the remaining two relationships, namely the Israeli-Palestinian and the Jordanian-Palestinian. Movement towards these goals requires that we emphasise the important principles of honesty and patience.

We need honesty in order to overcome the recent historical legacy that has seen all three parties usually avoid the hard, core issues in favour of dealing with the easier, peripheral ones. We should no longer shy away from admitting that these three states/communities must each manifest its distinct identity (but probably as a prelude to a more stable and cooperative regional order that will inevitably see them reintegrate as a more coherent, larger entity).

We need patience in order to be able to assure the national rights, territorial sovereignty and security of all three parties; this requires the continuation of the gradual, phased approach that we have pursued since the Madrid peace talks more than four years ago, because the constraints of the past weigh heavy on the hopes of the future. Fear often causes grown men to move slowly.

Politically, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PNA President Yasser Arafat are both precariously perched, and they find themselves in a most awkward position: Every time they try to implement new aspects of the Oslo peace accord, they find their domestic political credibility weakened. Mr. Rabin is pressured by the Israeli public's fear of Arab terrorism, and Mr. Arafat is pressured by Palestinian anger at continued expansion of Israeli settlements.

Despite close natural human ties and economic links the history of Jordanian-Palestinian political relations in the last three decades has been characterised by inconsistency. Jordan and the PLO have signed many agree-

ments and established scores of joint committees, most of which floundered and vanished on the shoals of haste, imprecision, mistrust and fear. The sight of Jordanian and Palestinian officials alternately embracing and then frowning at regular, biennial intervals is unnecessary, unimpressive and highly embarrassing. It should be stopped once and for all.

Peace-making will become more, not less, difficult in the months and years ahead, because the points to be negotiated from now on are the most difficult. Israel, Jordan and Palestine all suffer vulnerabilities and dependencies that compound these difficulties. All three must summon heretofore untapped reserves of compassion, realism and composure in order to address important issues.

Israelis will have to accept that they will not be fully embraced and recognised by all their neighbours while they simultaneously occupy Arab lands and kill Arab people. Israelis must accept a delineation and diminution of their national Zionist theology and ideology by living in an Israeli state that essentially remains within its pre-1967 borders.

Palestinians will have to accept the reality that in the short term they may have to endure a dilution of their full sovereign national rights and limits on the repatriation of all Palestinian refugees and displaced persons, in order to achieve their full national rights in the West Bank and Gaza in the longer term.

Jordanian and Palestinian national identities will continue to be disengaged in the short term, while simultaneously affirming the more powerful commonalities and shared destiny that binds them together. We will have to grapple with the question of: What, exactly, are the political, economic and personal consequences of being a Jordanian or a Palestinian, and how does one define each of these identities?

Jordan disengaged administratively and politically from the West Bank in 1988. Since Palestinians are keen to establish their own state and Jordan has repeatedly stated its support for this aspiration, it seems likely that a reciprocal Palestinian disengagement from Jordan of unknown magnitude may take place in the near future, if it is not already underway. Many people find this process uncomfortable, disquieting, awkward and full of unknowns that generate new fears.

The full implementation of Levantine justice and peace

may involve a redefinition of questions of identity and resource allocation by some Jordanian nationals of Palestinian origin, some of whom may opt to exercise their rights and identity as Palestinians in Palestine. This is a most complex matter that needs to be treated with wisdom and prudence, qualities that abound among Jordanians and Palestinians.

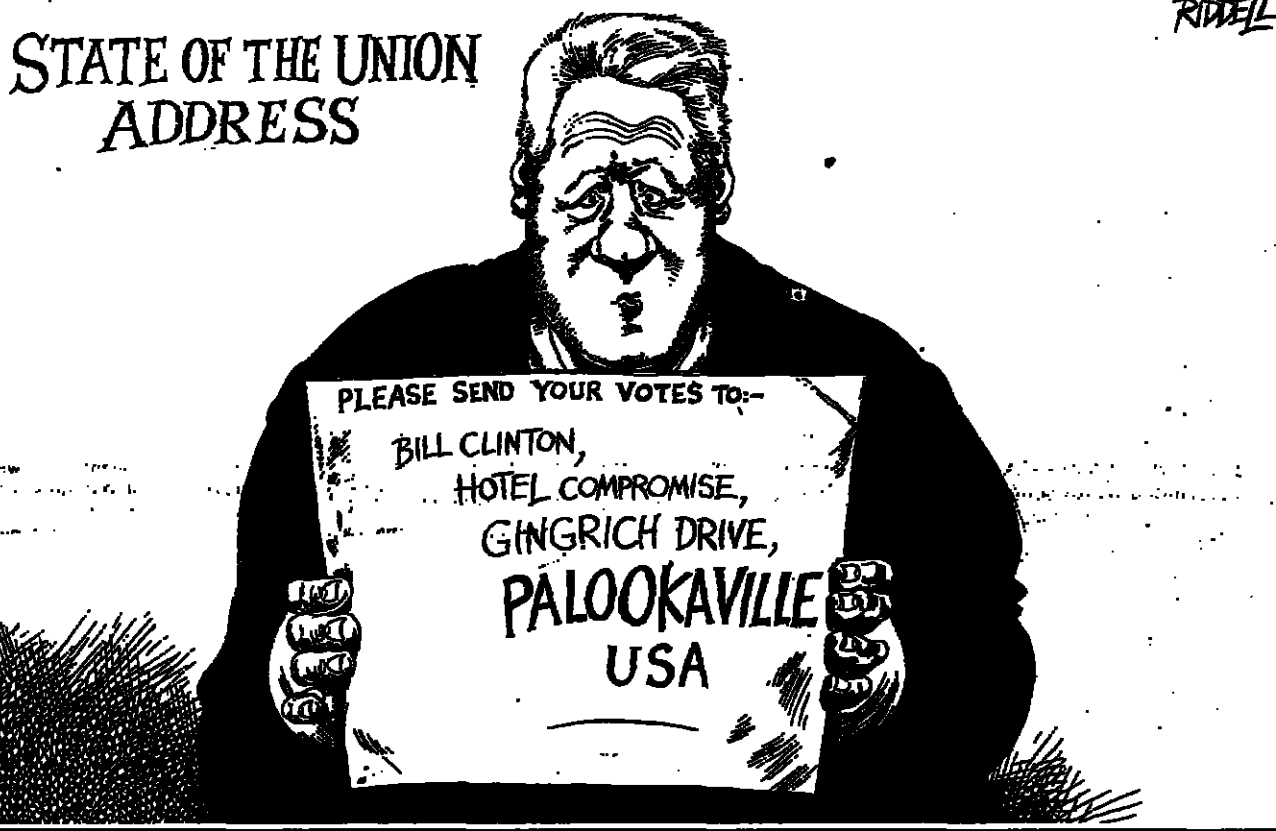
Most of all, we must avoid the pitfalls of pandering to the exaggerated hysteria of supernaturalists on both sides whose capacity to wave flags and speak in simplistic slogans is far greater than their ability to discern the central, ancient fact of Jordanian/Palestinian history: that we Jordanians and Palestinians have achieved feats of national viability and human development when we worked together within the context of regional integration and open trade; but, when our lands were split up into smaller, narrower entities they either perished under the tutelage of larger regional powers or were absorbed as colonial adjuncts and protectorates of distant imperial powers. Five thousand years of historical experience is hard to ignore, even for those who carry big flags and wave them furiously, and often.

These questions are hard, but compelling. They can best be dealt with successfully if Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis collectively accept that they all enjoy the same inalienable rights granted them by God, by history and by their status as human beings and self-conscious national communities.

Separation will not succeed if its primary goal is assuring Israeli security or perpetual Palestinian limited self-rule. But, we can take advantage of Israel's security concerns to translate separation into Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian political empowerment. Jordanian-Palestinian agreements will not reach fruition if they are based on a sense of mistrust and demographic vulnerability. Jordanian-Israeli agreements will not achieve their desired goals if they do not satisfactorily accept and work for the attainment of the sovereign rights of the Palestinians alongside the existing sovereignty of Jordanians and Israelis.

The past week has provided us with fresh signs of possible progress towards genuine peace based on justice for all. These signs will be transformed into real advances for Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis only if we shed the national deficiencies, narrow fears and naive suspicions that plagued us in the recent past.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS



Beyond China's deathwatch, a future to worry about

By David Shambaugh

LONDON — The Deng Xiaoping deathwatch is on in earnest. A recently published photograph, the first in a year, and an interview that Mr. Deng's daughter granted The New York Times confirm the patriarch's incapacitation. Political successions in communist states are unpredictable and unstable. In China, the death of Chairman Mao 19 years ago resulted in midnight arrests, purges and a prolonged transition before Deng Xiaoping emerged as paramount leader. By contrast, the succession to Mr. Deng is likely to be smooth in the near term. The situation six months or a year later is less predictable.

It can be argued that the succession has already occurred, as Mr. Deng and his fellow elders have selected a collective group of successors since 1982. Some have stronger power bases than others. But China's elite today is nervous about the relative lack of factionalism and political infighting. This apparent stability may be illusory, but it is in marked contrast with the Maoist era and much of the period under Mr. Deng's rule.

No present Chinese leader can fill Mr. Deng's shoes. The country will lack an emperor figure or paramount leader in his absence. His third successor, Jiang Zemin, will be the first among equals. His sustainability is less sure.

Mr. Jiang is acceptable to the four principal constituencies in the Chinese political elite — the Communist Party ideologues and apparatchiks, the military, provincial administra-

tors, and economic technocrats. Politics is about balancing interests and groupings. Mr. Jiang is a balancer. He knows that his future depends on maintaining the support of each group, particularly the military.

One of two wild cards in the succession game is retired party elders and former leaders who have been purged or removed from office in recent years. Chen Yun, Peng Zhen, Bo Yibo, Song Ping, Zhang Aiping and others can be expected to weigh in. Each backs different clients in the current politburo.

Chinese politics resembles Mafia patron-client networks, and the elders will exercise their influence via their protégés. The influence of the elders, like that of the military generally, will be politically constrained. This would tend to preclude the emergence of a Chinese Mikhail Gorbachev and significant political reform. Having watched the former Soviet Union, the old guard in China sees liberalisation as a slippery slope to extinction for Communist Party rule.

The other imponderable concerns the post-Deng roles of former Prime Minister and party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang and the former armed forces strongman Yang Shangkun. Mr. Zhao, deposed for opposing the bloody military suppression of the democracy movement in 1989, waits in the wings much as Mr. Deng did at the time of Mao's death.

Now 75, he could energise and restore some popular legitimacy to the party, carry out needed political reforms and enlist the support of the intelligentsia

and many economic reformers.

However, he is opposed by the conservative party elders, and his return to power would undoubtedly necessitate a reversal of verdicts on the massacre of pro-democracy protesters in June 1989. It would also necessitate the removal of Prime Minister Li Peng and other current party leaders. The chances of a comeback by Mr. Zhao seem slim, but stranger things have happened in Chinese politics, and it should not be ruled out.

Former President Yang Shangkun, who happens to have long-standing career ties to Mr. Zhao as well as a strong following in the military, must also be reckoned with. Mr. Yang, 67, is still snarling from being forced into retirement in 1993, and he remains a key power broker behind the scenes.

The current leadership appears secure for the time being and will probably weather the immediate post-Deng transition intact. Mr. Jiang has shored up support among the military and party ideologues. He has emerged as a statesman on the world stage in the last year.

Prime Minister Li, while disliked at home and abroad, has a strong power base in the State Council ministries and has carved out a politically safe position on the pace of economic reform.

emerge as a key advocate of political liberalisation.

Deputy Prime Minister Zhu Rongji is vulnerable for lack of political clients and an institutional or geographical base of support.

Mr. Deng's successors will be put to the test in 1995 to bring down inflation, cool off the overheated economy, restructure state enterprises, control crime and corruption, stem the tide of migrant labour, cushion unemployment in rural and urban areas, cope with the Taiwan issue, and manage relations with the United States and Japan.

China is undergoing wrenching systemic transitions. The leadership transition to the post-Deng era is only one of them. It is perhaps the most predictable and easiest to manage. More difficult are the socio-economic pressures from below that could coalesce to produce revolutionary change and transform China's political superstructure. China is in many ways a tinderbox that needs only a match, and deaths of senior leaders have provided such ignition in the past.

If China erupts after Mr. Deng dies, an authoritarian retrenchment and the spilling of blood to maintain the party in power are a far more likely scenario than the blossoming of Chinese democracy.

The writer, is senior lecturer in Chinese politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and editor of The China Quarterly. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Thailand evicts last Indochinese refugees

By Grant Peck
The Associated Press

BAN NAPHO REFUGEE CAMP, Thailand (R) — Politely but firmly, Thailand is showing the door to the last of hundreds of thousands of refugees who flooded into the country after the communist takeover of Indochina 20 years ago.

No ceremony or celebration marks the occasion when two or three times a month several hundred people leave this camp to return to their homeland, Laos.

Each family will receive five acres of land and a kit of basics — tools, seeds, housing material — to make a new start.

"Even though we have stayed here a long time, it is not our country," said Hing Ching, boarding a bus with his wife and two daughters. "It would be better to go back to our country."

A few thousand of his countrymen at the camp have yet to be convinced.

There are 8,400 people registered at Ban Napho, a dusty camp in the northeast that holds about half the refugees still in Thailand. Most at Ban Napho are Hmong, hill tribe people who fought heavily as proxies for the United States in an unsuccessful war to stave off the communist takeover of Laos.

Probably no group was as closely identified with the American war effort in Indochina as the Hmong. No group was as likely a target for retribution after the communist victory.

A small number of Hmong guerrillas still stage sporadic raids even though the Laotian government has softened its once-hard Marxist line with political and economic liberalisation.

About 150,000 Laotian highlanders fled to Thailand. Some 130,000 were resettled abroad, more than 90 per cent of them in the United States.

"Compassion fatigue" and tighter immigration rules stranded the rest.

In all, more than 1.2 million refugees streamed through Thailand after 1975, when communist regimes took power in Laos, South Vietnam and Cambodia. The refugee population peaked at more than 400,000 in 1980. Only 180,000 remain.

Thai officials insist that all refugees leave by year's end, a goal shared by the Laotian government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Thais say con-

ditions are safe enough for them to go home.

"I wanted to go to a third country, but the embassy didn't accept us," said Kuo Joy, returning with his wife and two daughters. "I think there's no problem in Laos because the Thai and Laotian governments have a good relationship."

Aid workers suggest many refugees who have refused to sign to go back suffer "dependency syndrome," a result of living for up to two decades on handouts with little incentive to improve one's lot.

Thai authorities and aid workers say another problem is advice from relatives in third countries for refugees to hold out on returning, in hopes they will be accepted for asylum. But America will not take them. Everyone in the camp was interviewed and rejected by foreign embassies a decade ago.

Opium addiction, which is rampant among many of the older Hmong for cultural and social reasons, is a legal bar to many refugees who would otherwise be eligible for resettlement in the United States because of wartime ties to the Americans.

In the past year, the Thai interior ministry has cut back on many basic services at the camp to prod people to go home.

Five private aid organisations that provided schooling, vocational training and rehabilitation for the handicapped were forced to stop their programme. Refugees who declined to sign up to return were moved into a separate fenced-off area to tighten controls on them.

Still, striving to avoid confrontations, officials at Ban Napho have been lenient in enforcing the rules.

Cottage industries like embroidery were banned a long time ago because they bring extra income and comfort to the refugees. The ban is ignored.

The fence of the inner camp is more symbolic than real, too. Aid workers say refugees frequently come and go. The Mekong River, which is the border between Thailand and Laos, is only 26 kms away and refugees cross into Laos to attend weddings and funerals.

The movement has its positive side, aid workers say. Those who go back and forth see for themselves the situation in Laos, reinforcing the information given refugees through aid agencies.

News

King urges Jordanians to join hands for development

Following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's speech at the Royal War College on Monday:

IT GIVES me great pleasure to meet with you today and to convey to you my hearty congratulations on the persistent efforts you have expended throughout the years of your honourable military service. You have distinguished yourselves with loyalty and sincerity, thus earning the privilege of enrolling in this institution of culture and military service. You have also been deserving of the diplomas which will enable each of you to carry out your more advanced responsibilities in the areas of command, planning, organisation and training, wherever duty calls, with efficiency, ability and distinction, in our valiant Armed Forces, the Arab Legion. I congratulate you all, including brethren of ours from sisterly armies, who have participated in this course and are graduating with you. We wish you and them continued success during your service and command, as you maintain qualities of honour and high military conduct, represented in discipline, efficiency and loyalty to the exalted values of military honour.

Dear Brethren,
The year just past has been replete with events, develop-

ments and accomplishments at the Jordanian level. Foremost among these has been Jordan's national and constitutional decision to look for peace after having waged many manly and heroic battles and offered much sacrifice over the span of history. Jordan has remained loyal to the message it inherited from those free Arabs — rebels who rallied to the flag of the father and progenitor of the Great Arab Revolt Al Hussein Ben Ali, descendant of the Prophet Mohammad (on whom be peace and prayers) and served with him in defence of our nation and in the cause of its freedom, unity and renaissance. It is this flag that you, sons of the army of the Great Arab Revolt, have inherited and hoisted with strong arms, embraced with your lives and raised above your proud foreheads which do not bow except to God Almighty.

This decision by Jordan came in the wake of an Arab movement towards peace — starting with the overture in this direction by Egypt which, with its demographic and moral weight, had led the Arab Nation in successive wars and offered much blood and sacrifice, which no one denies. Then we and the

other Arab parties concerned went to Madrid, starting from the same point as Egypt had done in the direction of achieving a just and comprehensive peace. We in Jordan had to offer a Jordanian umbrella to our Palestinian brethren to enable them to negotiate directly with the Israeli side. We thus helped them to assume their responsibilities in accordance with their own aspirations and desires since the Rabat Summit of 1974 — supported by all Arabs and Muslims — to assume responsibility themselves all that directly pertains to their own affairs. This led to negotiations and to a direct Palestinian-Israeli agreement, without further need for the Jordanian umbrella.

As for us in Jordan, we have always been proponents of peace. We went to Madrid in the wake of a national Jordanian conference which examined all alternatives, chose the path of peace, and gave it its blessings. After long and arduous negotiations, the Israeli government agreed to Jordan's demand to conduct and conclude negotiations that would deal with all matters on the agenda which was agreed and ratified after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord in Washington and before the signing of the peace treaty. Negotiations were then conducted leading to the



Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which was ratified after it had gone through all constitutional steps in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The treaty restored to Jordan its lands and waters in their entirety and, through it, Jordan's international borders with Israel were defined for the first time. Today we are witnessing the actual implementation of the terms of the treaty. Within the next few days, the process of movement and repositioning of the two parties on the international borders of the two

neighbouring states will be completed — without the need for future external supervision or the deployment of international or foreign troops between the two parties.

Fellow Brethren,

We are at the threshold of a new era, with its own challenges and requirements. It is imperative that we define our goals and priorities during this phase. Foremost among these priorities is the upgrading of our valiant Armed Forces in terms of readiness, organisation and supply along the most modern foundations and scientific findings in the military and defence fields. This would enable them to perform their sacred duty of protecting our homeland and its accomplishments from any danger or any quarter that might harbour evil intentions towards it or seek to harm it or distort its image in any way. Jordan, which has fought with manliness and honour, will also live up to its commitments and pursue peace with the same honour and manliness. During this new phase, it is imperative that we conduct a comprehensive review of our progress in all its aspects so that we may resume the process of construction in all walks of life in a manner which would guarantee development and growth in a

climate of security, stability, democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights, and our endeavour to deepen their roots.

At the same time, we wish to affirm that the pluralism we speak of should be rooted in a commitment to the Constitution and the National Charter in both letter and spirit. It is a pluralism where all groups would owe allegiance to this country and to no other — removed from all external affiliations, material or moral, with respect to source or guidance. It is a pluralism in which the minority would respect and abide by the opinion of the majority as a manifestation of its national allegiance, under conditions of peace, which is a gift bestowed on us by our martyrs and which we in turn bestow to future generations.

Under the auspices of peace, our comprehensive renaissance will be built, and it will be a model for those who wish to emulate it in the Greater Arab Homeland.

As we have sought to achieve a comprehensive peace for our region, and as we lay down a pivotal cornerstone of its impending structure, we hereby call at the same time for transcending differences among members of the same Arab Nation, for unifying our positions and for opening new horizons for

cooperation and complementarity among them — thus serving to achieve their aspiration to unity and a comprehensive renaissance, to development and growth and to a free, secure and dignified way of life.

Fellow officers,

I greet you once again, with the noble greetings of Arab youth who have faith and great promise in their hearts. I wish to express my pride in you as well as in all members of our Armed Forces, wherever their positions may be, as they rise to their responsibilities with honour and loyalty, whether this be in defence of their country or through their participation in international peacekeeping forces in many parts of the world. I also wish to thank the Joint Chief of Staff and the General Command of the Armed Forces for their care and interest in our Armed Forces — land, air and sea. I further wish to thank those in charge of this college — administrators, trainers and supervisors — for their constant endeavour in training our youth and preparing them to assume their present and future responsibilities.

God is the guardian of the march, and to Him all success is referred.

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and His blessing.

Jordan seeks IOJ presidency, but faces difficult task

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan stands a chance to win the chairmanship of the International Organisation for Journalists but faces difficult task.

Jordan is expected to nominate itself for IOJ presidency today (Tuesday), the final day of the organisation's annual meeting, held for the first time in Jordan. Although some participants at the IOJ congress that started Saturday say this will be an almost easy victory, others expect a fierce battle between Poland and Jordan.

"If Poland nominated itself for presidency, Latin American and European countries are likely to vote in its favour," said Shabul Hameed Abdul Karim from the Sri Lankan Press Union. "But custom dictates that votes will go to the host country."

According to the IOJ's regulations, every member organisation has one delegate and one vote at the congress. Every full member who has paid membership fees in full has the right of a supplementary delegate and a vote if the organisation's membership number between 101 and 500. A member is entitled to two votes and two delegates if the organisation's membership number between 501 and 1,500. If the membership is more than 1,500 a member can have three delegates and three votes.

According to participants from Arab countries, there is an almost unanimous consensus on Jordan as the next head of the organisation. In a meeting that took place Monday, representatives of Arab journalists unions voted for Jordan's candidacy.

"Jordan has a very good chance and we fully support its nomination," said Joseph Qusseifi, member of the Lebanese Press Association. "There is no need even for lobbying."

Jawdat Manna from the Arab Journalists Union in the occupied territories said Jordan's victory will enhance Arab chances to influence IOJ decision-making. He said there had been some talk that a branch for the IOJ would be opened in Amman, but stressed that this might not be enough if Arab countries did not win seats at the executive committee.

The Prague-based IOJ was established in 1946 and has regional offices in 96 countries. Its regional office for

Arab World affairs is based in Sanaa, Yemen. Member countries include the Eastern bloc, Latin America and several Arab countries.

The IOJ suffers from financial difficulties due to what some participants called the "mismanagement of the outgoing leadership."

"Only \$800,000 are left from the \$10 million that were in the IOJ possession in 1991 when the outgoing leadership took over," said a journalist from Africa.

"There has been no evident investments or any real projects that would explain this loss," another member said.

"The new leadership will have to make new investments to save the IOJ," Mr. Abdul Karim said. "The IOJ's future hangs on this leadership."

The IOJ's outgoing secretary general, Gerard Gatnot, said he hopes that there will be coordination with the Brussels-based FIJ federation internationale de Journalistes (FIJ) that was established in 1954.

"I have submitted a proposal for unification that we will become an international confederation for journalists whereby each organisation remains independent but all efforts combined," said Mr. Gatnot. "There are also efforts deployed by some British journalists in this direction."

FIJ only includes in its membership European countries and the United States. Israel, a leading FIJ member, is not an IOJ member.

According to Mr. Gatnot, Israel's application for membership will still be met by opposition from member Arab countries.

"Israel was the FIJ's spoils child and that's why the Arab Journalists Association took a decision not to join it," an IOJ member who asked not to be named told the Jordan Times.

Only Tunisia joined the FIJ "in order to make (the Arab) voice heard," the source added. Few years ago, the Palestinian Journalists Union joined FIJ as an observer.

"Chances for unification between FIJ and IOJ are very limited," said an Algerian journalist. "But there might be some coordination."

"Hopes are now that Jordan will become the first Arab country to head the organisation and will prove to be more effective."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi trade team in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — An Iraqi trade team began talks Monday with Egyptian officials and businessmen on resuming exports of food and medicine to Iraq, battered by more than four years of sanctions. The Iraqi team, headed by the chief of the state-owned food export organisation, will try to revive trade links between the two countries, said Nabil Najim, Iraq's envoy to the Arab League. The delegation will ask for goods which are permitted under the strict U.N. oil and economic embargo, such as food and medicine. Its visit follows an Egyptian team's trip to Baghdad in July.

Kuwait death sentences rescinded

KUWAIT (AP) — A high court on Monday rescinded death sentences handed in 1993 to five Iraqis, convicted of collaborating with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. The five-judge cassation court acquitted Abdul Salam Abdul Karim, 63, and commuted the death sentences of four others to 10 years in prison each. Abdul Karim's acquittal drops a \$31.5 million fine he was ordered to pay by a lower court for allegedly leading Iraqis to stored oil-tanker parts. He worked as an administrator for the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company before the August 1990 invasion of the emirate. The four whose sentences were reduced were identified as Kassem Sabhan, 38, Abdul Khalek Manji, 40, Abdul Wahed Hamid, 32, and Amjad Ibrahim, 28.

Somalis loot U.N. compound

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Fierce fighting in the United Nations' southern compound just beside Mogadishu airport left two Somalis dead and four wounded Monday as militiamen looted U.N. offices, a U.N. spokesman reported. It appeared the shooting was between

between militiamen from the neighbouring Medina district and Somali guards employed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Major Zubair Chattrah, spokesman for the U.N. Operation in Somalia, said Bangladeshi U.N. troops who guard a section of the duty compound of white-washed concrete buildings took no part in the fighting. The UNDP expatriate staff evacuated their office and adjoining residence Sunday after two weeks of direct sniper fire from militiamen on Medina rooftops over the past two weeks, said Judy Fisher, spokeswoman for the UNDP in Nairobi.

Demirel arrives in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel arrived in India on Monday for a four-day state visit during which he will meet Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and other leaders, the United Nations of India (UNI) said. It quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Mr. Demirel will discuss the Kashmir issue with Indian leaders. UNI quoted the spokesman as saying India was hopeful that Turkey, as a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, could influence a resolution to the Kashmir issue.

Israeli police short of manpower

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's police force needs a 50 per cent increase in manpower to fight anti-Israeli attacks and a growing crime wave, chief of police Assaf Hefetz said. Mr. Hefetz said the force — currently 20,000 strong — needed "to recruit 10,000 police in the next three to four years to confront properly the problems of security and criminality." "Without the increase the police would find it difficult to prevent further attacks like the double suicide bombing on Jan. 22 which killed 20 soldiers and a civilian, he told a press conference late Sunday.

Israel withdraws from Jordanian land

(Continued from page 1)

Youssef Michlab, accompanied by four aides each, shook hands across the barbed wire as a large contingent of Jordanian soldiers and a dozen or so Israeli media representatives crowded around.

"Goodbye," that was all that they said to each other before the Israeli team turned and drove away westwards, leaving behind a cloud of dust.

Obviously, no Israeli military officer wanted to make any statement on withdrawal from occupied Arab lands at a time when the entire concept of relinquishing Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territory has become highly sensitive in Israel.

Israel radio said two Israeli farmers were present at the ceremony.

One, Yaacov Ziegler of Israel's Paran village, expressed disappointment, there was not at least one Israeli flag flying opposite the Jordanian colours, but said the withdrawal was fine with him.

"I don't see any problem

with it," he told the radio, Reuter reported.

In less than a minute after the Israeli officers left, five Jordanian soldiers staked a four-metre pole and raised the green, red, black and white national flag at the spot. The officers and soldiers saluted the flag.

In other 10 minutes, at least six other national flags were fluttering from posts atop a nearby hill overlooking the area. The formal ceremony was over, but it was time for celebrations.

As Israeli cameras kept rolling from a distance of about 100 metres from their side of the fence, Jordanian soldiers in grey camouflage fatigues sang in praise of His Majesty King Hussein and danced atop the hill sewn with small pieces of metallic rock.

"We are now standing in Jordanian soil under Jordanian sovereignty," said Brig-Gen. Milkawi. "Our land has been returned to us and we are committed to defending and protecting it," he said, as soldiers around him shouted in un-

ison: "Long live King Hussein."

"It is a great day for Jordan," said Gen. Shurdum, who had kept himself to the sidelines of the ceremony, apparently in deference to protocol and allowing the army commanders of the area to have their day in the history of Jordan.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of the peace negotiations, which have resulted in Jordan regaining its full rights," Gen. Shurdum, who for weeks had remained closeted with Israeli counterparts working out the delineation and demarcation of the border.

"We will have those replaced with concrete pillars soon," said the burly officer pointing to the red markers stretching southwards and northwards. "They represent the international borders of Jordan and Israel, and we have six months to have concrete pillars in their place."

"We might even finish it earlier than that," added the brigadier-general.

King restates commitment to stands

(Continued from page 1)

been forgotten."

The King said he does not think there was any dispute that cannot be resolved if the Arab countries give priority to the interests of the Arab peoples and place these interests above any other consideration.

He said Jordan enjoys good relations with all Arab countries despite the ruptures in relations caused by the Gulf crisis.

"We passed through a difficult period during which we suffered a lot because of the siege and the harm... despite the responsibilities we were shouldering and the fact that we held the longest and most dangerous borders. But we also thought that we were carrying out our duty since we did not support Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and we can never be supportive of the use of Arab arms against Arab brethren in any place in the Arab World," he said.

"But when things developed, we thought we have the right as Arabs to resolve our issues by ourselves and to try to find the solution that can correct all that happened. I hope that the misunderstandings have disappeared. What we warned of and expected took place in terms of material losses and, more importantly, human losses and undermining the Arab entity.... which negatively influence the Arab stand on any issue," he added.

He said Jordan's relations with Oman had always been based on mutual respect and understanding. He said relations with Qatar were also good.

"With our brethren in the Gulf, I do not think that there is any problem. On the contrary, (the relations) are always moving in the right direction. God willing, there will come a time when we find that there is no problem and no reason for conciliation, unless to have it to unify ranks and achieve integration and peace," the King said.

The King noted that the Iraqi people were suffering a lot because of the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and voiced hope that the suffering would soon be over and the Iraqi people would be able to live an honest and normal life.

He described Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia as normal and expressed hope that they would improve in the future.

Jordan's relations with Yemen are strong and solid, he said. "Jordan's stand on the recent Yemeni crisis was compatible with its call for preserving the Yemeni unity which was a demand supported by all the Yemeni people," the King recalled.

The King also commended relations with other Arab countries, including Egypt, Syria and Sudan.

He said any cause of problems with any Arab country might be Jordan's democratisation process.

In my view, what might negatively affect relations from time to time is the way of life we in this country chose in terms of democracy and political pluralism, in terms of the National Charter which enabled (us to do) all this under the Constitution. In terms of public freedoms the people enjoy, including the freedom of the press and of expression, although it might be troublesome at many times.

"But I think that this is the right path because what we missed in the Arab World is the human-being's feeling of his/her value, weight, influence and ability to perform his/her role in building his/her homeland and achieving his/her goals and aspirations."

"We do not want to impose this experience on any one."

He said Jordan's democratisation

process might be taken as a model and an example that those who like it in the Arab World might follow.

The King said that there was also no reason for any difference with Syria.

"We were always for coordination, cooperation and contacts in any condition. But the difference between us and some of our brethren is in the way we view coordination," he said.

"Does coordination mean that this country becomes a card in the hands of others, or does it mean 'give and take' and to have relations based on mutual respect? I remember in the last meeting I had with my brother President Hafez Al Assad, I told him that... your conditions might allow you to continue for a long period (in the peace process) but we in Jordan cannot — in view of the prevailing conditions — continue. We started from the same point in Madrid and to reach the same goal: land for peace, regaining and preserving rights."

"We offered the umbrella. Our Palestinian brethren, who are concerned with what is related to their causes, chose their way and marched in accordance with their will and the will of the Arab and Islamic nation."

"There was only one controversial point. It was required that Jordan sign a blank paper before starting to negotiate. Our principled stand was always that we should negotiate over every aspect and issue in accordance with the agenda as a start, then go into the details and when we come to a situation which we can deal with and live with we sign the treaty. And that is what happened."

Jordan could not have waited "until all the Arab-Israeli issues were resolved," he said.

"This country is targeted more than any other part of the whole Arab World. It has been giving and offering, and this is its destiny. We could have never reached the stage we talked about and we do not know why others are late."

"No one cares about Jordan nor ask about the future of your children and the future of the coming generation," said the King.

The King voiced hope that the Palestinians are now convinced that Jordan does not have any goals or ambitions and that they regain their rights on their Palestinian land.

Regarding Jerusalem, he said: "Had Jerusalem not been mentioned in the Washington declaration and the treaty, I ask, how would the issue of Jerusalem, which is in our hearts and in our conscience, have developed?"

The King reiterated that Jordan had carried and would continue to carry out its duty towards Jerusalem until the issue of the Holy City comes to discussion between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Jordan views Jerusalem as part of the land occupied in 1967 and should be restored to the Palestinian people through their efforts and the support of the Kingdom and the others, he said.

"Regarding the Holy City, which God Almighty wanted to be of this important status for all of us who believe in God, we have our own belief, and that is if we can take it with regards to the three monotheistic religions detached from the issue of domination and sovereignty to any country, we should raise these holy sites to the level that they deserve. And thus the terms of reference for us as Muslims will be decided by the Islamic World as a whole, and so will be the case to our Christian brothers and the others through dialogue in case that might bring a solution that no one ever managed to reach... I would like to remind

you that all of the Arabs, with the exception of Iraq and Pakistan, then were with internationalising Jerusalem, which was saved by this army and this people."

In reply to another question, King Hussein said Qatar plays a major role in the Arab World and said he believed it will have a constructive role in mandating Arab fences, especially in regard to Arab Gulf countries.

The King said he believed that there were no obstacles the Jordanians and the Palestinians could not overcome.

He said the main obstacle was the Palestinian belief that Jordan had ambitions further than achieving cooperation and integration with the Palestinians, whom he described as "our brothers, family and the closest of people to us."

He said that there might be some clashes in views with the Palestinian leadership as had happened before, but stressed that Jordan "puts all that aside and will continue to carry out its duty towards the steadfast people in the occupied territories within its utmost capabilities."

"If the conditions were positive with the Palestinian leadership, they will find us stepping closer to them with every step they take in our direction," he said.

The King said he requested the Palestinian leadership a few days ago to put off discussing the issues of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, "because as long as the people do not get their right on its national soil and do not get that freedom, they will not be able to deal with any new situation."

"Once that is achieved we will be able to see what we can achieve... in this way, we make this Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as an example and model for the others. Anything other than that is premature and is a contradiction to the goal and objective," he said.

"If we were marching towards federation, it is good for us. We are one people and one family. We hope, by time, that all that be achieved. But talking about confederation or unity does not conform to all the action which we approve of and support to create the independent Palestinian entity. So why should we waste time in discussing issues that cause suspicions and that are not justified? So let us leave these things to the future. We are sure that once again we will become one people, one hand and one heart," he said.

The King stressed that Jordan will protect its national unity, with all citizens having the same rights and duties regardless of origins.

"We will protect national unity with our lives and will not allow any hampering with it by any one because that might be the aim of hostile parties. This aim existed in the past and still exists. Our weapon in confronting all this is awareness and will continue to be this way."

He stressed that if in the future Jordanians of Palestinian origin will decide to leave the country for the Palestinian lands, it will be their choice, but for the time being safeguarding national unity will be above any other consideration.

He said the Kingdom's main priority now was to reorganise its Armed Forces, emphasising that would in no way mean reducing its size.

"In terms of performance we should reconsider organisation and then armament because we were deprived in the recent years of the chance to obtain arms except in very limited cases through the support that was available to us. Now our responsibilities are bigger," the King said.

Report: Privatisation must go further in Arab World

Conference urges Arabs to unite economically

ABU DHABI (R) — Four leading regional organisations have urged Arab states to push further with plans to privatise their economies.

A report by the UAE-based Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab League, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) praised efforts to restructure Arab economies.

"Privatisation has not acquired the necessary impetus in many Arab countries because of the dominance still enjoyed by the public sector," the report said.

Extracts from the report on the Arab World Economy were published by the United Arab Emirates' official WAM news agency.

The legal framework needed for privatisation was still incomplete and the lack of developed stock markets and state controls on interest rates were also hindrances, it said.

But it added: "1993 saw some achievements in the field of restructuring public companies and privatising

some of them (and) in continuing economic, financial and currency reforms."

The report put the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the 22 Arab states in 1993 at around \$308 billion, up from \$483 billion in 1992 — a growth of just over five per cent.

The report said the number of people living in the Arab World at the end of 1993 was 240 million.

"Trading and (currency) exchange in some Arab countries is still bound by restrictions on trade and exchange rates," the report said, adding that Arab states needed to adopt "all the necessary policies" to grow in the face of world competition.

The share of oil and gas in Arab GDP fell to 20 per cent in 1993 from 21 per cent the year before, the report said. Manufacturing's share fell to 30.3 per cent from 31.4 per cent.

But falling oil prices had prompted the governments of oil-producing states to bring in policies designed to curb

spending and bring it into line with reduced incomes.

World oil prices fell in 1993 to hit five-year lows around the end of the year for which the report's figures apply.

They have since recovered some of the lost ground, but the Gulf states which produce most of the Arab World's oil are moving ahead with sell-offs of state assets and diversification of their economies away from oil.

Late rains or low rainfall affected the production of most crops in many parts of the Arab World in 1993.

The report said crop yields were increasing at a much lower rate than increases in the area under cultivation and were low compared to the levels obtained by other developing countries.

It said this was due to factors including government pricing policies, lack of investment in agricultural research and insufficient numbers of agencies offering guidance.

Fish is the only foodstuff where the Arab World is self-sufficient, it said.

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — An Egyptian economic conference has urged Arab countries to form a Middle Eastern economic union to face the challenges of trading blocs in Asia, Europe and North America.

The conference of President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party was convened to plot a strategy to restructure

Egypt's bloated state-owned sector and institute monetary reforms. But opening speeches focused more on the economics of the Arab World.

"Middle East countries are facing long-term development challenges which require them to make better use of their human and natural resources," Mahmoud

Samir Tobar, head of the party's economic committee, said in the conference's main working paper.

Osama Al Baz, head of President Mubarak's political office, urged the formation of an Arab economic union. "Friendly countries should form an Arab economic bloc, not aimed at a confrontation with other blocs but to help

coordinate and cooperate with these blocs," Dr. El Baz said.

President Mubarak did not address the conference, but met with his economic committee Sunday evening, Al Ahran newspaper said.

President Mubarak, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to move ahead with monetary

reform, praised the country's economic policies. He said the government has refused to comply with some demands by international institutions that would increase the economic burdens on Egyptians.

He was referring to IMF demands to devalue the Egyptian pound and to lower bank interest rates.

MEES: Omani gas reserves grow

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Oman's proven gas reserves have reached 24 trillion cubic feet (680 billion cubic metres), enough to cover two important multi-billion dollar export projects, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The new figure for the sultanate's gas reserves is three trillion cubic feet (80 billion cubic metres) higher than estimates listed last October.

MEES, published in Nicosia, quoted Omani Petroleum and Mines Minister Said Bin Ahmad Al Shanfari as telling the oil industry newsletter's editor, Ian Seymour, that the sultanate's current reserves are "bankable" and that like reserves "are double that figure."

He stressed that Oman has "a very intensive programme for gas exploration and development... a year or two from now, the gas reserve figures will be very much higher."

The sultanate is driving to expand its industrial base and its gas reserves to compensate for its limited oil deposits, which Mr. Shanfari pegged at five billion barrels. Oman is currently producing 800,000 barrels of oil a day.

Mr. Shanfari said that production level will be maintained so as "not to shorten

our long-term production profile."

He said the gas reserves are enough for the sultanate's current export projects — vital to the country's economic future as its limited oil reserves are depleted — and domestic consumption.

The first project is providing six million tons of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, a year for a foreign consortium led by Shell. The project cost could reach \$3 billion.

The second is the construction of a 700-mile (1,130-kilometre) underwater pipeline to India across the Arabian Sea with an initial capacity of one billion cubic feet (28.3 million cubic metres) of gas a day. It could ultimately cost \$5 billion.

Mr. Shanfari stressed that because of financial constraints, only one of these ambitious projects can be implemented at a time.

He indicated that the LNG venture, to which seven trillion cubic feet (200 billion cubic metres) of gas have been dedicated is moving ahead well and seems to be the current frontrunner.

But he stressed that execution of the project would depend on lining up customers and purchase agreements. So far only two million tons a year have been provisionally

lines up for China, four million short of the target.

"The implication here was that, in the event of failure to secure firm sales contracts for the LNG, the implementation preference could swing in favour of the Oman-India pipeline, which is currently under evaluation," MEES noted.

Mr. Shanfari noted: "We will go ahead with whichever gets put together first. We've signed an agreement with India on pipeline gas supply. With the LNG, everything depends on the sales contracts... but I believe we'll succeed in signing up enough customers and we're preparing to go ahead with the LNG scheme."

Mr. Shanfari flew to South Korea Jan. 26, "to further emphasise our commitment to the LNG project." It was not clear whether he was seeking customers or lining up tankers for the LNG. South Korea is a major ship-building nation.

Mr. Shanfari visited South Korea, China and Japan two months ago seeking customers for Omani gas.

The sultanate is vying with Qatar, a gas giant with deposits of more than 27 trillion cubic feet (6.4 trillion cubic metres), and other Gulf states for Asian gas markets.

WTO head calls for new global economic framework

DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP) — World Trade Organisation (WTO) head Peter Sutherland called Sunday for a new framework to be set up at the "highest political level" to coordinate a global economic strategy.

Mr. Sutherland said lack of coordination among existing bodies had "bedevilled" international efforts over Russia, and seriously affected responses to problems in sub-Saharan Africa and to the recent Mexican currency crisis.

Warning of a "returning tide of protectionism," he added that simply improving coordination between the existing global institutions — the WTO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank — would not be enough.

"The most immediate specific need is for revised structures for coordination on international economic issues at the highest political level," he told the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"Improving cooperation among the WTO, the IMF

and the World Bank is just dealing in technicalities unless it takes place within a coherent policy framework that can command broad international support," he said.

Mr. Sutherland, formerly head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that was succeeded by the WTO at the start of 1995, is acting secretary-general of the WTO.

He continued: "We have... a structural deficit in the world economy. To see what this deficit is costing, you only have to look at the lack of coordination and clear direction which has bedevilled the international efforts to assist the transition to a market economy in Russia."

The Irishman who steered the GATT Uruguay Round to its successful conclusion last year added that he was optimistic about the new world trade body.

"It represents a new departure, new possibilities and new hope," he told a session of the 1,500 political and business leaders gathered since last Thursday in this chic Swiss ski resort.

UAE boosts 1995 spending to meet development needs

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key oil exporter, Monday unveiled a delayed 1995 budget with a projected increase in spending to create hundreds of new jobs and meet growing development needs.

But despite higher expenditure, the projected deficit was cut by around \$100 million due to a surge in returns from investment and other non-oil earnings, according to the official news agency WAM.

After nearly a month of discussions, the cabinet approved the highest federal budget in nearly a decade although officials and experts have expected no major improvement in oil prices this year.

Spending in 1995 was projected at 17.94 billion dirhams (\$4.88 billion) and revenues at nearly 16.9 billion dirhams (\$4.6 billion), causing an estimated shortfall of around \$280 million.

The 1994 deficit was projected at \$380 million as expenditure stood at \$4.79 billion and revenues at \$4.41 billion.

"This year's budget will be slightly higher than the 1994 budget due to increased spending on growing services and other development needs," minister of state for financial and industrial affairs Ahmad Al Tayer said recently.

Details of the federal budget carried by WAM showed around 2.55 billion

dirhams (\$694 million) were allocated for the purchase of goods and services and for new development projects in the country's seven emirates.

They included around \$39.5 million for building free houses for citizens, \$45.77 million for water and electricity, \$59.12 million for education and \$5.177 million for information and culture.

Allocations for salaries for the nearly 65,000 civil servants stood at around 5.5 billion dirhams (\$1.49 billion) nearly one-third of the total expenditure, according to Mr. Tayer.

He said the 1994 budget saw the creation of 630 jobs for national university graduates and an equivalent number of jobs would be created this year.

Other spending increases cover the marriage fund, the capital of which was raised to 280 million dirhams (\$76.3 million) from 150 million dirhams (\$40.87 million). It was the second capital rise since the fund was created three years ago with a capital of nearly \$21 million.

UAE President Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan ordered the establishment of the fund to help local men meet soaring wedding costs through grants of up to 70,000 dirhams (\$19,073). Officials said the capital increase was prompted by a surge in demand for grants.

"This year's budget is characterised by an increase in revenues due to a growth in non-oil income following an

improvement in the government's domestic and overseas investments and revision of water and electricity rates and fees on health, residence and labour services," Mr. Tayer told reporters.

He said non-oil earnings were expected to surge to 4.05 billion dirhams (\$1.1 billion) in 1995 from 3.2 billion dirhams (\$871 million) in 1994. This compares with less than \$200 million a year in the mid-1980s.

Despite such a rise, oil still provides more than 80 per cent of the UAE's total revenues. A sharp decline in crude prices over the past decade created a persistent deficit in the UAE's budget and forced it to rationalise expenditure, introduce fees on government services and carry out reforms.

The 1995 deficit was one of the lowest in several years and accounted for only 0.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

Under the interim constitution, the federal budget is financed through half the income of each of the UAE's seven emirates but in practice almost all the funds come from the main oil producers Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Unlike other Gulf oil producers, the UAE has ruled out issuing bonds to shore up the shortfall, opting instead for boosting non-oil revenue, getting extra funds from those two emirates and cutting spending through the year.

Cuba bids for foreign investment

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — Cuba made a strong bid this weekend for more foreign investment, insisting that its new opening to the outside world was a permanent part of an irreversible economic reform policy.

But while accusing the United States of blocking its efforts to diversify trade and economic links — despite openings to communist Vietnam and North Korea — it warned it was not offering "a transition to capitalism" on the island.

Carlos Lage, a vice-president and key architect of the reform process, brought the message to the Davos World Economic Forum — a gathering of top business and political leaders Havana would once have scorned as a "capitalist club."

"For a small country, integration into the world economy is indispensable for survival," Mr. Lage — the first senior Cuban official to attend the annual forum — told a news conference. "We have no doubt that

the world has to move towards integration and that our country and its economy have to be part of that." He said he had found "respect and sympathy" in Davos for Cuba's efforts in that direction.

"An important element of our strategy is our opening to foreign investments as an indispensable source of capital, technology and markets," Mr. Lage told a special session at the wide-ranging forum devoted to Cuba.

"This opening is not temporary or restricted to the period our economic recovery requires," he declared. "On the contrary, it is a permanent and irreversible element in the future of the Cuban economy."

During the more than three decades President Fidel Castro has been in power, Cuba has mainly followed a Soviet-style policy of strict government control of the economy with little room for private enterprise or outside investment.

But it has been badly hit by

the collapse of the old Soviet Union and the European Communist Bloc which were its major economic partners. The end of this relationship has deepened the effects of the long U.S. economic blockade.

Mr. Lage told the forum that after three years of decline, the economy had begun to turn around last year with a 0.7 per cent growth that is a significant expression of the country's ability to leave the worst period behind.

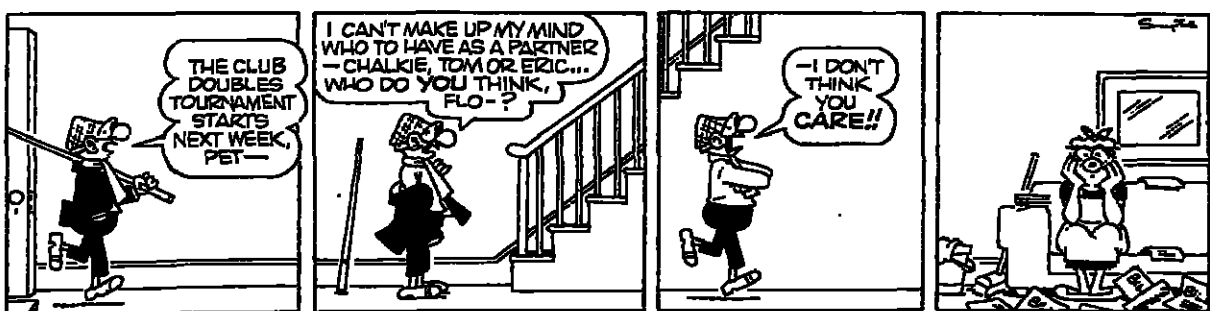
Last week, he told the Communist Party newspaper Granma that 1994 had seen increased foreign investment, an encouraging trend towards more balanced finances, and growth in tourism, in crude oil output and in some industries outside the sugar sector.

"We still have as the most serious of our problems the limitation of foreign currency which provides our capacity to import resources that we need... to reactivate the country's productive capacity," he told Granma.

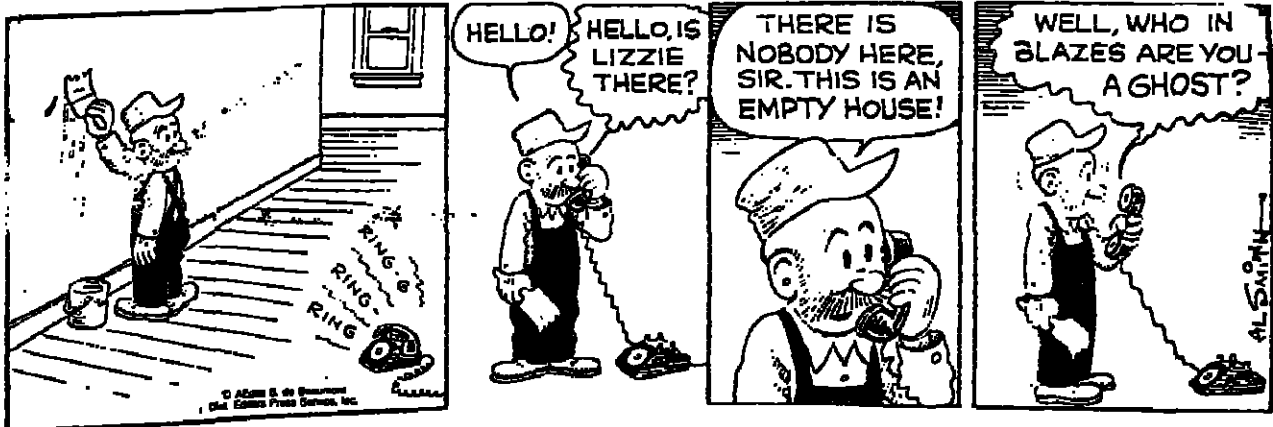
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Can I help you?

NIMEC

KNEAT

DRIHNE

YONDOB

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUAIL WEIGH GENTRY WHENGE

Answer: What the hyacin considered his winning point — A NET GAIN

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 31, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sort through the best ways to add to your prosperity as we enter the Chinese "Year Of The Boar" and get out to some new place where you can find inspiration and escape those who are a bore.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study carefully what has to be completed of a financial or property nature, and don't make promises you cannot keep.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Don't drive yourself too hard in order to gain your wishes and then later you can relax at pleasures which you like.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't hesitate to confide something important to a partner in the morning, and then you can be happy with a charming person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Leave it up to a trusted person to set up an appointment for fun in the evening. Don't hesitate to call upon your friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Steer clear of a confrontation with an outsider in the morning and later you can advance in career matters by being very charming.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Await the afternoon before taking on that new project which is very promising, then go full speed.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your accounts studied well and then you don't have to argue about them. Make sure you have enough money in the bank.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is important to compromise with some associate who is as stubborn as you are, and reach a fine agreement. Don't get fooled.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take that chip off your shoulder in the morning and then you can carry through with ideas wisely.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel in the morning which nothing is going to go right for you, but later everything smooths out and becomes easy sailing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to make home conditions more harmonious and then all works out fine there. The evening is fine for entertaining.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't permit an early anxiety to keep you from achieving a good deal with associates and later get environment in finer shape.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray

ACROSS

- 1 They parade
- 5 Endures
- 10 Publisher
- 14 — and "Marriage"
- 15 Sublime
- 16 Early film
- 17 Long in the tooth
- 18 Male whole
- 19 Nothing more than
- 20 Eater's Super
- 22 Proliferated
- 24 Journey of song
- 25 Satellite
- 27 Maximum
- 31 Sassy
- 35 Columbus
- 36 School letters
- 38 Winter clothing
- 39 Pastoral
- 40 Sense of touch
- 41 Actor
- 43 Grain grinder
- 44 Spy
- 46 Powerful person
- 48 First lady
- 49 Guardian of silence
- 51 Buggy
- 53 Hypocritical
- 54 Sledge
- 55 British man
- 56 Cap of cheer
- 59 Strong-willed woman
- 64 Small
- 65 Intoxic
- 67 "Fiesta" Peter
- 68 Exploit
- 69 "Don't fear" (Frenchman)
- 70 Cast
- 71 London gallery
- 72 Poplar tree
- 73 Sublime

DOWN

- 1 Too best
- 2 Talk-out words
- 3 Cooking place
- 4 Corporate place
- 5 — spirit
- 6 Poetic line
- 7 Decimated
- 8 O.T. judge
- 9 Other pool
- 10 Impetus
- 11 Male
- 12 Kingly title
- 13 Lifen
- 14 Helmsman or Horn
- 25 Active one
- 26 Spartan slave
- 27 Religious scroll
- 28 Indian
- 29 Of ancient Carthage (Frenchman)
- 30 Sandwich store
- 32 Mirror like
- 33 Cleverest
- 34 Apple in "Cathedral"
- 37 "There's — reason why"
- 38 Mystery
- 39 Sand
- 40 Word on a menu
- 41 Sea of sunset
- 42 Coup d'—
- 47 Standard
- 48 Mystery
- 49 Sand
- 50 Novelist Sarah — Jewell
- 51 Novelist Sarah — Jewell
- 52 Unavailable for proceeding
- 53 Gravy holder
- 54 Novel by Zola
- 55 Favor
- 56 Novelist Sarah — Jewell
- 57 Unavailable for proceeding
- 58 Gravy holder
- 59 Tiny —

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Talk of liquidity shortage is not true

★ The market is awash with cash and what attests to that is the oversubscription in the shares of the public company as the public poured JD 75 million to acquire two million of shares worth JD 2 million floated this month. This oversubscription by 80 times demonstrates high liquidity in the market and the public's keenness to invest in promising projects (Al Aswak).

★ Marwan Awad, general manager of the Middle East Bank, has supported the Central Bank in requesting commercial banks to raise their capital to JD 20 million. He said that development in the region during the coming stage requires that Jordanian banks be stronger and more able to compete. Mr. Awad noted the capital and reserves of all Jordanian banks do not exceed JD 300 million, an amount less than the capital and reserves of one Israeli bank. Furthermore, Mr. Awad said, the period of two years given for the banks to raise their capital to JD 20 million would not be enough (Al Aswak).

★ Fakhri Bilbeisi, general manager of Philadelphia Bank, predicts that banks would take between three to four years to increase their capital. He defended the Central Bank's request for a capital raise but cautioned against too many banks floating shares at the same time and drying up the liquidity from the market. Mr. Bilbeisi as well as Mr. Awad said it was not easy for the banks to merge in Jordan and both called on the Central Bank to provide incentives to encourage mergers (Al Aswak).

★ The Ministry of Supply has denied that any decision has been taken to import Indian frozen meat and said any move on this issue was the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture (Al Aswak).

★ The Jordanian shareholding companies guide issued this month by the Amman Financial Market lists 128 companies at the end of 1993 compared to 119 companies at the end of 1992. The 1994 guide includes general information about the companies such as the date of establishment, names of board of directors, names of auditor and legal advisers, number of local and outside branches, number of employees and number of shareholders and their holdings. The guide, both in Arabic and English, also includes financial data about the companies and cumulative indicators about the stock exchange in general (Al Aswak).

★ A large group of Jordanian and Palestinian investors are working on setting up a Palestinian investment bank with a \$20 million capital. The bank will reportedly be called Al Quds Bank for Development and Investment and be based in Nabulus. The founders are said to have obtained the approvals of the Jordanian and Palestinian monetary authorities and to have covered 75 per cent of the capital with the remaining amount to be floated for public subscription. The Jordan Investment and Finance Bank (JIFB) is the leading founder with a \$1.75 equity in the Palestinian bank along with other key shareholders of the JIFB (Al Ra'i).

★ According to the Civil Aviation Authority, 53,583 planes passed through Jordan's airspace in 1994, 19.4 per cent more than the number in 1993. As such, the Kingdom collected the equivalent of JD 1.25 million in hard currencies fees. Also, the number of passengers who used Jordanian airports increased from 1,557,992 in 1993 to 1,680,185 in 1994 (Al Ra'i + Sawt Al Shaab).

World shipping had 'calamitous '94 -- underwriters

LONDON (AFP) — World shipping had a "calamitous" 1994, while the year proved the worst ever for claims on aviation insurers, the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) said Tuesday.

There was a huge increase in loss of life at sea last year mainly because of the Estonia ferry disaster in the Baltic in September in which more than 900 people died, according to the institute's 1994 annual report.

The ILU said there were 1,463 killed or reported missing at sea as a result of total and partial losses of vessels. This compared with 613 in 1993, and 386 in the previous year.

But as the ILU figures only applied to ships of more than 500 gross tonnes, the overall death toll was probably several hundred higher, said the report.

The tonnage of the ships lost totalled an estimated 1.4 million tonnes in 1994, the highest total since the early 1980s, but the ILU said the high rate of "old tonnage" lost means that financial losses for underwriters are not likely to have risen appreciably from 1993. It gave no figures.

The report said the Estonia was the year's most costly single loss, with her hull and machinery valued at over \$60 million. Around 55 per cent of the reinsurance was placed in London.

"The Estonia tragedy has catapulted ship safety to the front of the world stage. It has caused turmoil in the shipping industry and the after shocks will doubtless continue for a long time," said the report.

The Achille Lauro liner which last month caught fire and sank in the Indian Ocean had a hull and machinery value of about \$17.5 million, which was heavily reinsured in London.

Airline losses were estimated at more than \$2.2 billion — substantially above earned premiums, but the report said there was no significant variation in the number of jet airliner losses.

"The severity in terms of their markedly higher hull values and the number of passenger fatalities and the high cost of liabilities will more than offset all the improvements in rates and terms which underwriters have achieved in the past three years."

The ILU represents the company marine and aviation insurance market and its members account for approximately half of all business of this type placed in London. The other half of such business goes to Lloyd's of London.

The London market in total accounts for 37 per cent of world marine and aviation insurance, an ILU spokesman said.

Israel telecom firms prepare to take on giants

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli telecommunications companies have made a name for themselves worldwide by carving out niches in new fields but analysts say several are poised to take on the giants in their own markets.

"Until now the Israeli companies have tended to concentrate on niche markets because they felt they didn't have the money to compete head on with the Alcatel, Siemens and British Telecoms, not just in equipment but in services as well," said consultant David Nordell.

The Israeli companies have prospered with equipment to make phone systems compatible with one another, technology to refurbish copper wiring or by installing digital exchanges fields that some larger companies may have ignored.

But company managers say that to grow, they must take risks.

"We are becoming too big to operate in that kind of fashion. We are taking on bigger companies in their own markets," said Mannie Olswang, chief financial officer at ECI Telecom Ltd.

"Israeli companies will have to compete and not just in niches," he said. ECI, which develops digital systems for improving and expanding transmission infrastructure, is viewed by analysts as one of the best placed to break into the major leagues.

Based in a Tel Aviv suburb, ECI exports 95 per cent of its production. Its shares are traded on Wall Street and more than 60 per cent of its shareholders are non-Israeli residents.

"Our competitors are Siemens, Alcatel and ATT, to some extent," said Mr. Olswang, adding that ECI has made its market overseas because Israel's market is just too small.

Israel's biggest electronics company is Tadiran, with sales of \$784.5 million — dwarfed by U.S.-based ATT's annual revenues of more than \$18 billion. Telecommunications is Tadiran's largest division, with annual sales of \$350 million compared with ECI's \$295.7 million.

Tadiran, 60 per cent owned by Israel's largest industrial concern Koor, is a big name in military electronics but has converted part of that to civilian applications.

Yet Tadiran Telecom communications exports only 30 per cent of its production and

is uncertain that will radically change.

"ECI can compete on a large scale. Tadiran can compete but I don't know if it will," said Mr. Nordell.

Tadiran is strongly entrenched in the local market and is a major supplier to Bezeq, the state-controlled phone operator.

But Tadiran Telecom marketing director Abraham Atar said exports are growing far faster than overall sales. In 1993-94 exports jumped 85 per cent while total sales rose 15 per cent.

The company is investing heavily in wireless communications to replace copper wires. The biggest potential is in rapidly developing countries such as India and China, where the number of phones per capita is very low.

The trend is for these countries to develop rapidly so they need rapid communications," Mr. Atar said.

The wireless solution is far quicker than installing copper wiring, which often is not even an option in remote rural areas where the distances are enormous. In this market Tadiran is taking on such giants as Motorola and NEC, which are developing their own wireless systems.

Analysts say smaller Israeli companies lack the confidence and marketing know-how to compete in bigger markets. "This is only natural in a small country like Israel," Mr. Nordell said.

"Israeli companies are good at the start-up stage but when it comes to developing beyond a certain critical mass and being competitive on a large scale, they fall down," he pointed out.

Analysts also note that with deregulation and privatisation under way in Israel, the local market is growing ever more attractive, even for foreign companies.

Bellsouth entered a joint venture with the Safra Banking Brothers of Brazil to set up Israel's second cellular phone service last month. Until then Bezeq, in a joint venture with Motorola Israel, enjoyed a monopoly.

The government also intends to issue a tender for a second international phone carrier and soon will hold a global share offering for a 23 per cent stake in Bezeq, reducing its share to 51 per cent.

All this means more business for the services and equipment sectors. Tadiran, which manufactures Alcatel systems in Israel, expects to supply equipment to the second carrier.

To compete, Bezeq managing director Yitzhak Kaul said he will urge the government to privatise a new planned subsidiary for international service. He said this will allow the subsidiary to hook up with an international firm to provide better service.

Japanese market welcomes Sumitomo Bank move to accelerate write offs

TOKYO (AFP) — Sumitomo Bank Ltd. of Japan won widespread applause Monday for taking the lead in putting past excesses behind it by deciding to write off 800 billion yen (\$8 billion) in bad loans.

Heavy buying pushed Sumitomo shares up by almost 17 per cent to 1,880 yen at the close of trading, from 1,610 yen on Friday before it had announced its decision to write off an extra 300 billion yen in the year to March.

As a result, Sumitomo said it was forecasting a consolidated pre-tax loss of 275 billion yen for the year to March, making it the first major Japanese commercial bank to incur a loss since World War II.

The subsequent rally in Sumitomo shares on Monday spread to other financial institutions, helping to boost the Nikkei Stock Average by

3.6 per cent.

"Investors welcomed the Sumitomo Bank move, with the view emerging that it should affect favourably the economic recovery and the share market," one broker said. They added that the move was also likely to bring about an earlier-than-expected recovery in Japan's depressed property market.

Credit rating agencies were also impressed. Monday's Investors Services Inc. upheld Monday its "A-1" senior debt rating for Sumitomo while the Japan Bond Research Institute did likewise for its "AA-plus" rating.

"Both the scale of Sumitomo's asset quality problems and the likelihood of large eventual credit losses have been incorporated into its ratings," Moody's said in upholding the rating affecting \$2.8 billion in long-term debt.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 27/1/95	Tel Aviv Close 30/1/95
Sterling Pound	1.5895	1.5905**
Deutsche Mark	1.5150	1.5219
Swiss Franc	1.2736	1.2760**
French Franc	5.2595	5.2510**
Japanese Yen	99.34	99.18**
European Currency Unit	1.1248	1.1242**

** USD Per STD
* European Opening @ 8:00 AM CMT

Monetary Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.00	6.45	7.00
Sterling Pound	6.00	6.37	6.81	7.56
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.81	5.00	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.50	3.64	3.93	4.31
French Franc	5.37	5.62	6.00	6.50
Japanese Yen	7.04	7.06	7.06	7.11
European Currency Unit	5.64	5.93	6.32	6.93

Source: Bank of America (USD, EUR, GBP, JPY, CHF, DEM, FRF, YEN, ECU)

Previous Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.65	7.50	Silver	6.69	0.110

* 10 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 30/1/1995

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1067	1.1122
Deutsche Mark	0.4600	0.4623
Swiss Franc	0.5460	0.5487
French Franc	0.1332	0.1332
Japanese Yen	0.7021	0.7056
Dutch Guilder	0.4105	0.4126
Swedish Krona	0.0435	0.0437
Italian Lira	0.0435	0.0437
Belgian Franc	0.0435	0.0437

Other Currencies

Date: 30/1/1995

Currency	Buy	Offer
Israeli Sheqel	1.8330	1.8450
Lebanese Lira	0.041855	0.042825
Saudi Riyal	0.1652	0.1664
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3650
Qatari Riyal	0.1902	0.1915
Egyptian Pound	0.2090	0.2140
Omani Rial	1.8010	1.8120
UAE Dirham	0.1892	0.1906
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.2815
Cypriot Pound	1.4235	1.4425

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4128/38	Canadian dollar
	1.5136/46	Deutsche marks
	1.6962/72	Dutch guilders
	1.2748/58	Swiss francs
	31.19/23	Belgian francs
	5.2523/73	French francs
	1598.8/9.8	Italian lire
	96.78/88	Japanese yen
	7.4325/25	Swedish crowns
	6.6300/50	Norwegian crowns
	5.9745/95	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5874/84	
One ounce of gold	\$376.03/376.45	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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49ers become first team to win 5 Super Bowls

MIAMI (Agencies) — San Francisco lived up to its reputation as a huge favorite, scoring touchdowns on its first three possessions and routing the San Diego Chargers 49-26 Sunday to become the first team to win five NFL Super Bowls.

Quarterback Steve Young threw six TD passes, three of them to Jerry Rice, and the 49ers jumped out to a 14-0 lead less than five minutes into the game, and led 28-10 by halftime.

San Diego, 18-point underdogs, called the coin toss and lost that, setting the tone for another one-sided championship game, a reputation the Super Bowl has achieved over the last decade.

Jubilant ruled in the San Francisco 49ers' locker room following the landmark triumph for nearly every player.

The victory over San Diego gave Steve Young the American football title he lacked when compared with ex-49ers great Joe Montana. But there were other special moments for San Francisco.

Ken Norton Jr became the first player on three straight title teams, having helped Dallas to two prior crowns.

"I could see the handwriting on the wall, so I jumped over here," Norton said. "I played against Steve and Jerry these past years and when they decided to play their best, I wanted to be part of it."

Norton's first title remains special, but his latest rates as his greatest.

"The first one always stands out, like your first girl, but it gets better and better so why stop now," he said. "The third one is the best feeling yet. Three in a row is something I never dreamed of."

Samoan Jesse Sapolu won his fourth Super Bowl ring. Now, after giving each of his sons one, the blocker will have one of his hand.

"To be part of four is special," he said. "If we keep this team together, I have a shot at five, which no one has done."

49er president Carmen Policy, who said beating rival Dallas in the semi-final made the Super Bowl an anticlimax, sang a new tune, saying, "if we didn't get to this point, the season would have been nothing less than a flop."

Deion Sanders, who came from Atlanta this season for

less money than others were willing to pay, became the first man to play in the Super Bowl and baseball's World Series. Now he has a title.

"I've reached the ultimate goal," he said. "This is what it's all about. Now I look like a genius."

All-time NFL touchdown king Jerry Rice became the all-time Super Bowl leader in scoring, touchdowns, receptions and receiving yards. Rice caught 10 passes for 149 yards and three touchdowns.

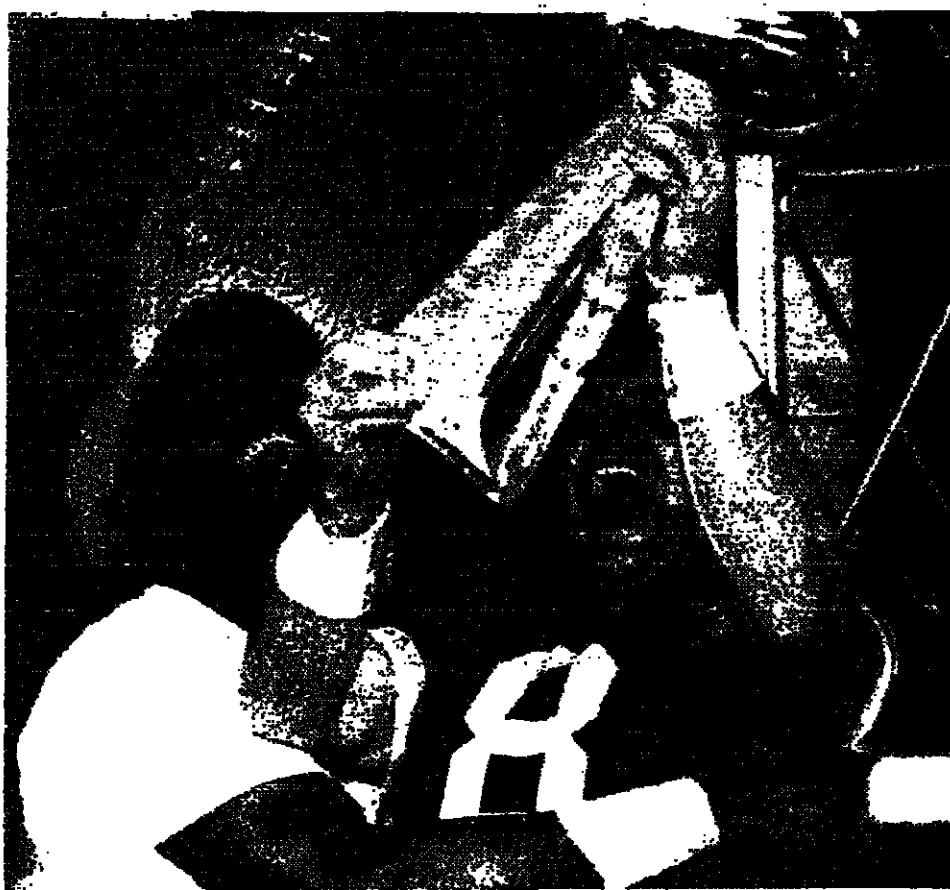
"This one is special because of Steve," Rice said. "Before the final seconds, we kept hugging and I told him, 'Hey man, I love you. You deserve this. Enjoy it. Never forget it.'"

Rice's last two scores came despite a shoulder so sore he could not lift one arm above his head.

"Jerry Rice with one arm is better than anybody else in the league with two arms," Young said.

Former New Orleans linebacker Ricky Jackson won his first Super Bowl ring in 14 NFL seasons and contemplated retirement.

"It has made my career complete," he said. "Today I accomplished everything I always wanted. It's going to be



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young (left) and teammate Jerry Rice celebrate as they lift the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl trophy 29 (R) and teammate Jerry Rice celebrate as they January in Miami (AFP photo)

tough to come back next year. I don't know if I can get in shape again."

Gary Plummer, who spent 12 years with San Diego until joining the 49ers this year, rejoiced over his title.

"I've played 25 years since

(youth games) and I have always dreamed of this moment and it is better than I thought it would be," he said.

Defender Tim McDonald also jumped to the 49ers to find a title. He succeeded. "It's so satisfying," he said. "I'm on cloud 999 right now."

Rusher William Floyd won his first title as a rookie after helping Florida State win a U.S. college title a year ago. "This is the best thing that has ever happened in my life," Floyd said. "There is no feeling like this."

Two shot, 30 arrested in celebrations

Two men were shot and some 30 people were arrested Sunday night during violent celebrations following the San Francisco 49ers' record fifth Super Bowl victory.

"People are just complete-

ly out of control," police officer Miguel Granados said two hours after the 49-26 rout of the San Diego Chargers in the American Football Championship in Miami.

Horn-blowing motorists and screaming bar patrons joined in an impromptu cacophony of celebration across the city. In one district, people set off fireworks from apartment windows.

The furor brought injuries. One man from the city's historic Mission District was shot in the leg, and another was wounded in the arm. Both were hospitalized in fine condition.

The arrests — for fighting, drunkenness and the firing of celebratory gunshots — also came in the Mission, traditionally the wildest part of the city after a Super Bowl.

Records fall in 49er rout of Chargers

Super Bowl records set in the San Francisco 49ers' 49-26 victory over the San Diego Chargers in Super Bowl XXIX Sunday:

Most points, career (tie) — 42, Jerry Rice, San Francisco. Most points, game (tie) — 18, Jerry Rice and Ricky Watters, San Francisco.

Most touchdowns passes, game — 6, Steve Young, San Francisco. Most receptions, career — 28, Jerry Rice, San Francisco. Most yards gained, career — 512, Jerry Rice, San Francisco.

Longest kickoff return (tie) — 98 yards, Andre Coleman, San Diego. Most Super Bowls won — 5, San Francisco. Most points, both teams, game — 75, San Francisco and San Diego.

Most points, first quarter — 14, San Francisco.



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young (left) avoids San Diego Chargers defensive end and Ravie Johnson during the first quarter of Super Bowl XXIX in Miami. The 49ers beat the Chargers 49-26 (AFP photo)

Ramtha withdraw; Faisali win 8th Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Titleholders Al Faisali Monday took home their eighth Jordan Cup title when Al Ramtha pulled out of the first half of their final match at Amman Stadium.

Al Faisali were leading 1-0 after a 24th minute goal by Mousa Awad, to which Al Ramtha's players protested citing it was a clear off-side.

Al Ramtha's Bilal Lahham was suspended after a second booking following which Al

Ramtha opted to pull out of the match in the 28th minute.

The match capped the 1994 soccer season in which Al Wihdat took the first division crown; Al Faisali won the Jordan Cup and Cup Winners' Cup and Al Hussein took the Federation Shield.

Al Ramtha who won the Cup in 1990 and 1991 were eyeing their third title and at least one of the Kingdom's soccer titles, after finishing second behind Al Wihdat in the first division.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ski championship set for Feb. '95

SIERRA NEVADA (R) — The World Alpine Ski Championships, postponed a year through a lack of snow, will open here on February 11 next year. International Ski Federation (FIS) president Marc Hodler said Sunday. The championships were due to start on Monday. "We will see each other again on February 11 next year in the same place," Hodler said at a ceremony attended by Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia. About \$350 million was spent in Andalusia, some 70 per cent of it in Granada and the rest on the Sierra Nevada itself. Artificial snow churned out daily in a desperate bid to cover parched pistes, cost \$25 million alone.

Arbachakov retains WBC flyweight title

SAPPORO, Japan (AFP) — Yuri Arbachakov of Russia, battling a nagging cold, gained a unanimous decision over Mexican challenger Oscar Arciniega here Monday to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title. Arbachakov, in his sixth defence of the title, was slow to respond to the bold start from the number three contender but the 28-year-old Tokyo-based Russian gradually got the upper hand. Arbachakov, the 1989 world amateur flyweight champion, stretched his unbeaten record to 20 wins, 125 of them inside the distance.

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SHOW AND TELL

East-West vulnerable. North South's hand must both criteria for a jump shift—a self-sufficient suit and a fit for partner's suit. When Blackwood showed all the aces were present, South contracted for a grand slam in clubs. When West doubled, South realized there was a danger of a ruff and retreated to seven no trump. West led a heart, declarer called for the ten from dummy and East made a good play by ducking. Declarer won the ace and took two rounds of clubs, ending in dummy. Now South made West pay a heavy price for the Lighter double. If West could ruff a diamond, East had to have all five missing cards in the suit headed by the ace, so the suit was not going to run. The singleton diamond was led from the table and, when East followed low, declarer finessed the pinal As a result, the grand slam sailed home with a trick to spare.

Monday morning quarterbacks will tell you that West would have done better not to double seven clubs—East might have found a diamond lead anyway. In all honesty, though, we must admit that we, too, would probably have doubled seven clubs. Switch the nine and eight of diamonds or give North a singleton nine instead of the seven spot and seven no trump falls by two tricks.

Opening lead: Three of ♣

If your opponents know what they are doing, you are not going to get rich doubling freely led alone. Therefore, it is extremely sensible to follow Theodore Lightner's advice and use the double to direct a lead, usually the first suit led by dummy. Once in a while though, that action can backfire.

Russia moves to club ownership

MOSCOW (R) — An enterprising Russian company that sells lavatories, makes shoes and buys property has branched out again, making history by becoming the first owner of a soccer club founded in the Soviet era.

"Factories and other enterprises are bought and sold," Russian Soccer Federation Vice-President Nikita Simonyan said on Monday. "So perhaps it's not surprising that someone has finally bought a soccer team."

Until now, all professional clubs in Russia — and before

that in the Communist-ruled Soviet Union — have been run by ministries, city authorities and state-owned enterprises and latterly sponsored by the new money classes.

But Vladimir Kalina, one of the five co-owners of the lowly first division Smena-Saturn club in St. Petersburg, believes this must change and that the way ahead is the route long favoured by Western teams.

"I'm sure that in our soccer the time when teams lived at the expense of city budgets or sponsors' alms is over," he

told Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper. "Each team must have its own boss with a fat wallet."

He said his Saturn Company, a joint venture which imports and sells kitchens and British bathrooms as well as dealing in real estate and making shoes, had not purchased Smena-Saturn last year out of charity.

"Strange as it may seem, we are united by one aim," Kalina said. "To make a profit."

Simonyan said so far no one had bought any of the 16 premier division clubs, such as Spartak, Dynamo Moscow or CSKA.

"Why? because you will need an awful lot of money," he said. "But it will come."

Kalina said Smena, one of 22 first division clubs, had previously been sponsored by firms and run by the town hall in St. Petersburg, Russia's second city. The club was close to financial collapse because of Russia's rampant inflation.

He and his four co-owners raised funds through a 500 million rouble (\$125,000) share issued and by selling a player to Zenit, the top club in the city, for the same amount.

Last season, the club just broke even but hopes for better things this year by selling more players. It wants to encourage players to perform well by dangling the carrot of a juicy transfer

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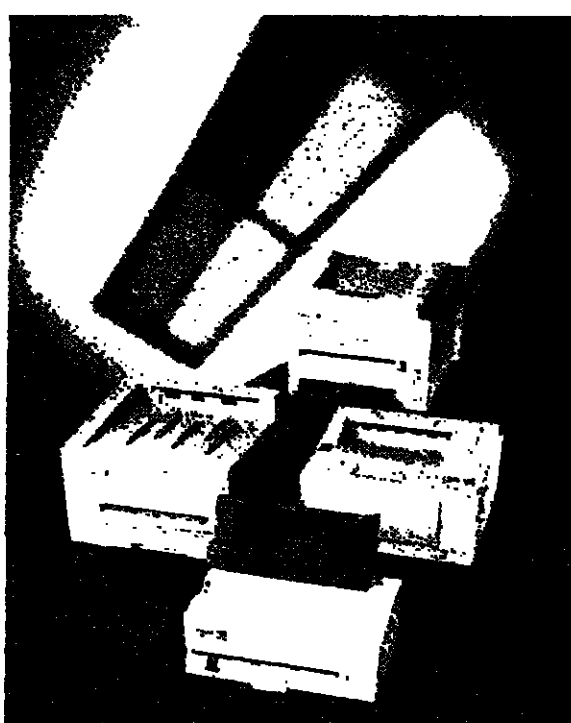
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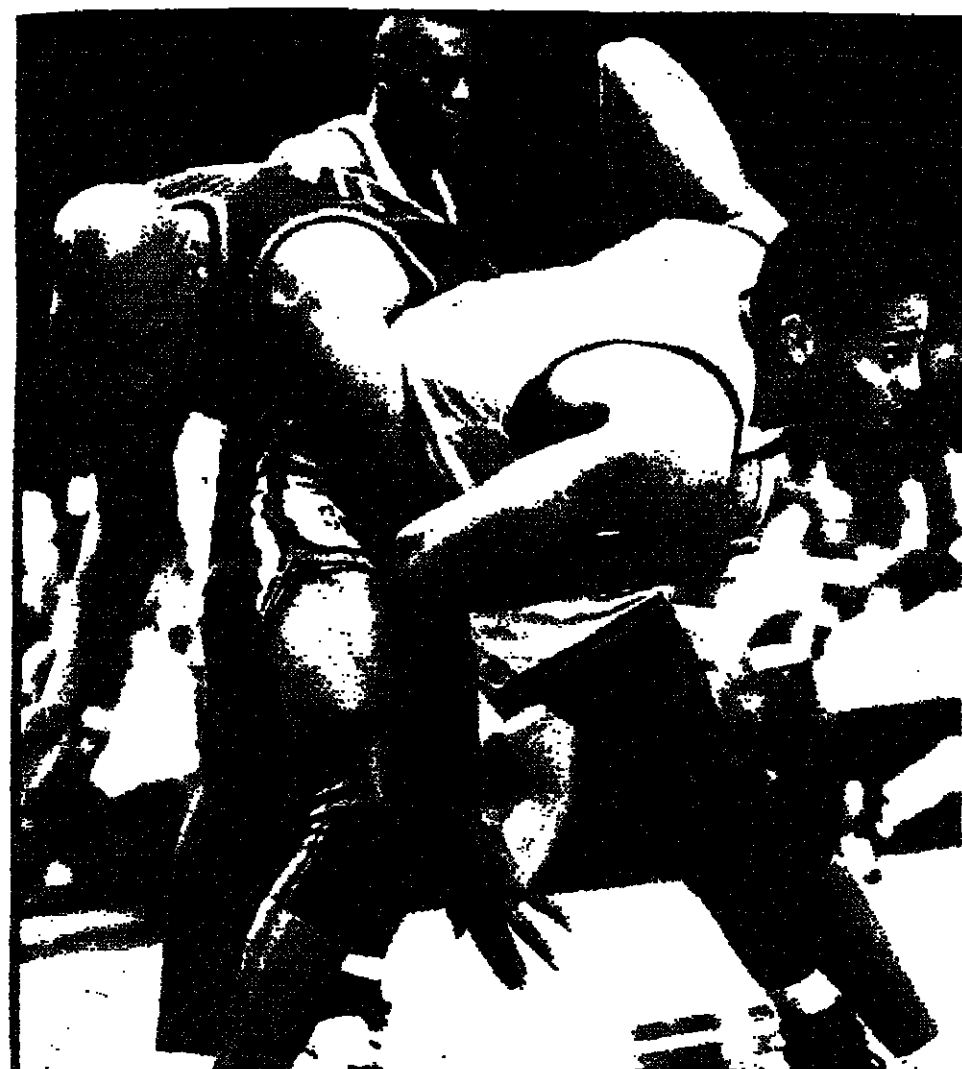
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				Shows: 3, 5					

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1995
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Sports



New York Knicks Charles Smith (right) keeps the ball away as he gets tied up with Phoenix Suns Wayman Tisdale (left) during the first half on Sunday. The Knicks defeated the Suns, 107-88.

Knicks humiliate Suns 107-88

NEW YORK (R) — It was the Knicks' turn to take advantage of home court and Patrick Ewing was the key as New York shut down the Pacific Division-leading Phoenix Suns 107-88 Sunday. Ewing scored 35 points and grabbed 15 rebounds as the Knicks avenged a 106-85 loss at Phoenix last month. "It was a total team effort," said Ewing. "We knew we had to come out and play well in our building. It's still a long way to go, so we have to keep getting all the wins we can." The win was the 15th in 17 games for the surging Knicks (27-14), who had a six-game winning streak snapped by Charlotte Friday. For Phoenix (33-9), the

Officials happy with '96 games preparations

DURHAM, North Carolina (AP) — Top officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee said they were satisfied with the financial preparations for the 1996 Atlanta Games even though organizers still were trying to cover the last 10 percent of their budget. USOC President Leroy Walker and interim executive director John Krinsky said the situation in Atlanta was "not unusual" for this stage of Olympic preparations. "Sure, they have some concerns," Walker said. "But they report to us regularly that they will meet their objectives." It was surprising last week when the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) chose not to issue the usual January update of its financial report. The last few of those reports have shown rising expenses and falling revenue projections, with a \$1.6 billion budget expected to produce a \$60 million contingency fund rather than the \$156 million surplus originally forecast when Atlanta won the right to host the Centennial Games in 1990. The Atlanta Games are totally financed by private money, just like the 1984

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Police arrest suspected killer of Genoa fan

ROME (AP) — Police in Milan Monday arrested a young man suspected of fatally killing a soccer fan in Genoa. The stabbing sparked a rampage outside the stadium and heated debate nationwide on whether to suspend the next round of play.

The presidents of the Italian Soccer Federation and the Italian Olympic Committee were scheduled to meet Monday afternoon to work out a strategy to curb violence. One proposal is suspending not only next Sunday's soccer games but all Italian sports events that day. News reports identified the stabbing suspect as Simone Barbaglia, 19, of Milan. He was among the 970 Milan fans escorted by police from Genoa to Milan to be photographed and registered for police records.

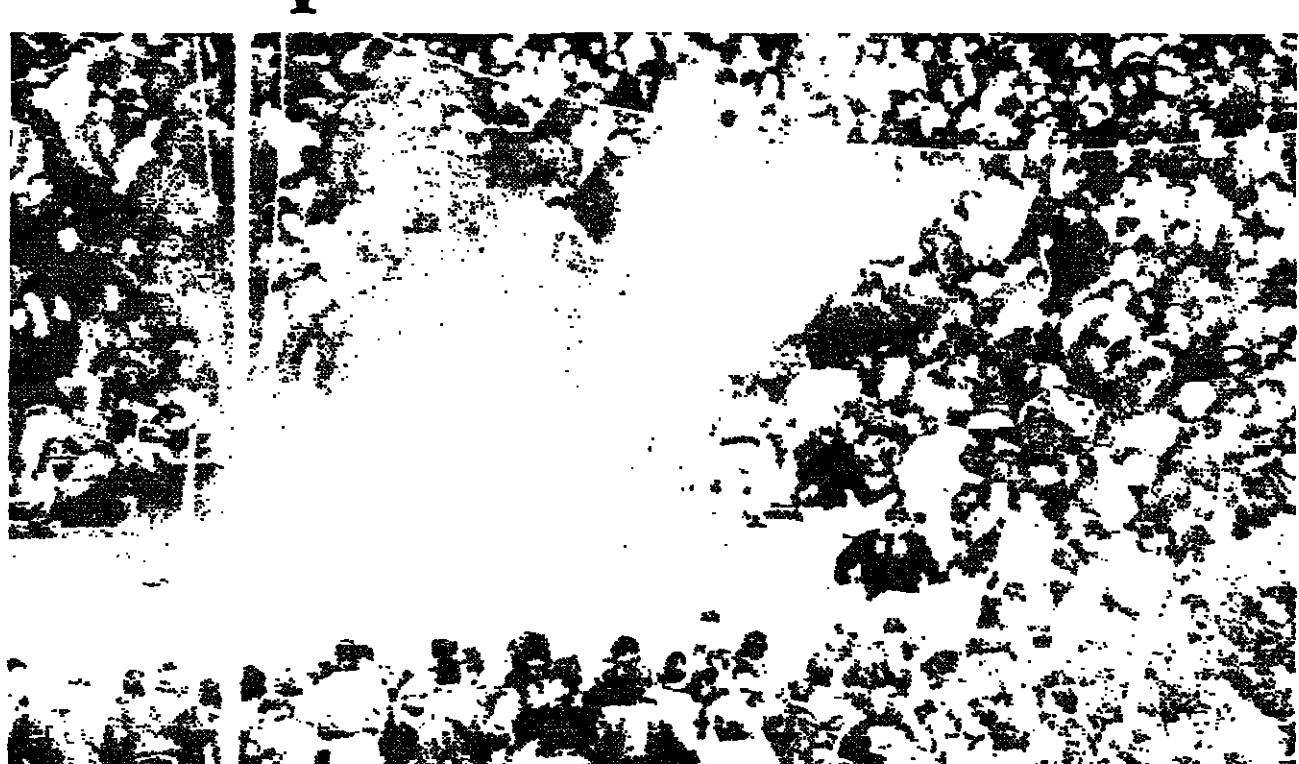
After the stabbing, which occurred outside the stadium as fans were pouring in to see the Genoa-AC Milan match Sunday afternoon, Barbaglia allegedly joined his friends in the bleachers and watched the match, news reports said.

The victim, Vincenzo Spagnolo, 25, a Genoa fan, was knifed in the stomach and died during surgery.

Police found the knife after the suspect allegedly told them where it was, Italian news agencies reported from Genoa.

The team captains announced the match's suspension at the half and asked the crowd of 35,000 to leave calmly. However, police kept Milan fans inside the stadium until dark to try to prevent further violence and until they could be escorted to Milan police headquarters for identification.

Debate, which has followed previous bloody soccer



Police spray water on Genoa supporters as riots started following the news that a fan was stabbed to death during the Italian league match Genoa vs Milan 29 January. The

25-year-old Vincenzo Spagnolo was knifed shortly before the game and died later in hospital (AFP photo)

Barbaglia was traced thanks to witnesses who picked him out of photographs taken before the game.

At least six other fans were arrested for violence after the game in which 27 people were injured.

Three of them were tried by a Genoa judge on Monday and convicted of resisting arrest and insulting authorities and then released. They were sentenced to probation terms ranging from a few months to one year. During probation, they must check in with police several times a week.

Security is already tight before and after games with thousands of police outside stadiums and at train stations where fans of out-of-town teams arrive.

But even heavy police presence has failed before to prevent violence. Just two months ago, a fan stabbed a police official in Brescia, seriously wounding him.

Some players suggested it was time to make this lesson last.

"A Sunday without soccer? even three or four if needed. We've had enough talking and then forgetting," said Gianfranco Zola, who plays

for Parma.

But an official of Milan's other major league team, Internazionale, Peppino Prisco, said suspending the games for a round would be a mistake because it would anger people "without resolving the fundamental problem of fan violence."

"We've got to go ahead and keep playing otherwise we'll let the murderers win," said Walter Zenga, goalie for Sampdoria.

News of the stabbing death filled the first few pages of Italian papers, after weeks of politics dominating the front pages.

Former interior minister Roberto Maroni, in an interview with La Stampa, a Turin daily, accused the teams of not doing enough to discourage fan violence.

"The teams are too tolerant with their own (fan) clubs, they use them and are used by them. The teams like... the bleachers lively, the slogans, the banners," Maroni said, contending the teams use the clubs to sell more tickets.

During a scheduled Cabinet meeting, Interior Minister Antonio Brancaccio briefed the government on the violence.

Juventus take 3 point lead; PSG lose in Monaco

PARIS (Agencies) — The death of a fan, rioting and police intervention in armoured vehicles in Italy overshadowed the weekend's European football scene — already reeling from the mid-week behaviour of French international Eric Cantona who attacked a fan after being sent off in an English Premiership clash.

Italian sports chiefs called a crisis meeting after a Genoa fan was stabbed to death Sunday before the match against AC Milan, prompting rioting which police only ended with armoured vehicles and baton charges (see separate story).

It was nearly midnight before police finally managed to get the besieged Milan fans into buses and on to the motorway back home. Car windows were smashed and property damaged around the stadium.

The two captains, Genoa's Vincenzo Torrente and Franco Baresi, had unsuccessfully appealed to the 30,000 fans to leave the stadium peacefully.

The tragedy, the sixth death of an Italian supporter since 1979, is just the latest in a series of violent incidents this season which have marred Italy's international image.

A policeman was stabbed in November and needed an emergency stomach operation after 300 AS Roma fans, armed with baseball bats and

bars rioted at Brescia.

Italian police chief Fernando Masone immediately called for a change in the law to protect his officers, several of whom had been hurt in October during clashes between Napoli and Bari supporters and in November when AS Roma and Lazio supporters hurled seats and wooden batons.

Meanwhile at the start of December, a 19-year-old Parma fan was stabbed when his team played Fiorentina in an Italian Cup quarter-final game.

Italo Cucci, editor of Rome sports daily Corriere dello Sport, wrote in a front page article in Monday's edition: "We want the state to intervene. Enough discussions, debates and meetings."

In Sunday's other Serie A matches, Juventus went three points clear at the top after a 2-1 home victory over bottom club Brescia.

Veteran Gianluca Vialli hit an 89th-minute penalty — his eighth goal of the season — to earn the points and stop the rot after the side's defeats to Cagliari and Torino.

Nearest rivals Parma could only draw 1-1 at Cremonese. Gianfranco Zola's spotkick just after the break cancelled out with 30 minutes to go by Enrico Chiesa.

Lazio, in third place, crashed to an unexpected 3-1 home defeat against Bari.

Giuseppe Signori's 11th goal of the season in the final seconds little consolation after Sandro Tovalieri's earlier double, giving him a total of 13.

AS Roma joined Lazio on 31 points with a 1-0 away win at Foggia, courtesy of a second minute goal from Argentinian Abel Balbo.

The biggest win of the day, Sampdoria's 4-1 victory at Padova, was begun by England international David Platt in the 13th minute.

German striker Juergen Klinsmann, knocked unconscious in a game four days ago, returned to score his 17th and 18th goals of the season Sunday as Tottenham beat Sunderland 4-1 in the fourth round of the English Football Association Cup.

Klinsmann, recovered from his horrific collision with Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich at Villa Park on Wednesday, converted a penalty for Spurs' first goal in the 51st minute after Sunderland's Gary Bennett was sent off for a hand ball in front of the net.

Teddy Sheringham then netted his 14th of the season and Sunderland's Andy Melville gave up an own goal as Tottenham, shut out by the tenacious division one team in the first half, cruised to victory against 10 men.

The other two fourth round games Sunday also went the way of the

favourites. Everton beat Bristol City 1-0 and Wimbledon downed Tranmere 2-0, meaning that no premier league team was eliminated by a lower division club this weekend.

In France impetuous Daniel Bravo was sent off for the second match running as Monaco blunted Paris Saint Germain's French title hopes with a 2-1 victory.

Bravo, sent off against leaders Nantes last time out, this time took an early bath after 56 minutes for two yellow cards in a match in which six other players were also booked.

Worse still, Luis Fernandez's side had the perfect opportunity to earn a point from penalty in the 86th minute but with Bravo, the normal spot-kick specialist, already off, the job fell to Brazilian Ricardo who blasted his effort straight at the goalkeeper.

The defeat leaves Paris Saint Germain in third on 41 points, ten behind Nantes with 15 matches to play.

International left winger David Ginola, who has made his peace with Fernandez after a war of words over his poor form, opened the scoring on the half-hour with a neat control and left foot drive into the right-hand corner.

Brazilian Sonny Anderson, however, headed home to make it 1-1 just before the

break.

The Parisians looked the better team even when reduced to ten men but Mickael Madar, who had earlier missed a one-on-one against Bernard Lama, finally netted a rebound winner after Anderson had squeezed past three defenders to test Lama.

On Saturday, second-placed Lyon, also on 41 points, and Cannes, in fourth, had taken another step ensuring European Cup football next season with yellow victories.

Lyon hammered Auxerre 3-0 and Cannes beat Bordeaux 2-0.

The pick of Lyon's goals came from Liberian James Debbah, who ran 60m and beat three defenders before blasting home into the top left-hand corner five minutes into the second-half.

Despite the absence of first choice midfielders suspended Brunc Ngotty and the injured Franck Gava, Lyon dominated Auxerre throughout. Florian Maurice opened the scoring after half an hour, following up well and slotting home when Lionel Charbonnier failed to hold a fierce drive from Claude-Arnaud Rivenet.

And Auxerre's hopes disappeared in the 67th minute when Nigerian defender Tariq West was given his marching orders for a second yellow card.

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Yemeni-Saudi talks hit snags

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen said on Monday talks with Saudi Arabia were facing difficulties but stressed both sides should not resort to force to settle their dispute over a potentially oil-rich border area.

"Hopes are still pinned on the joint Yemeni-Saudi committee, in spite of the difficulties it faces, to be inspired to find the way of peaceful solutions," the government newspaper Al Thawra said in the first public admission of snags arising.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week accused Saudi Arabia of massing troops along the border despite an agreement brokered by Syria on Jan. 15 to withdraw forces, revive border talks and not resort to force.

Saudi Arabia issued a denial on Friday night and told Yemen to check with it first before making such accusations. On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's defence minister denied his troops were massing along the frontier and said talks were proceeding well.

Al Thawra did not spell out the snags in the talks in Riyadh to settle the 60-year-old dispute. In 1993 Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, warned oil firms prospecting near the border with Yemeni licences they were trespassing.

Yemeni officials attending the Riyadh talks said Sanaa had told Riyadh the issue should be seen as one and not two disputes between the kingdom and what used to be North and South Yemen, which merged in 1990.

Yemen "wants the problem to be solved in its entirety without any division. Any solution has to be final and comprehensive," a source close to the talks said.

While no breakthrough has been reported in the Riyadh talks which started last week

mainly between Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Qader Bagammal and Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Khawaiter, both sides say they are not deadlocked. Yemeni Parliament Speaker Abdullah Al Ahmar is also attending the talks.

"It is necessary to... search for peaceful alternatives and means to all border problems away from the feelings of strength or resorting to non-peaceful options," Al Thawra said.

"Talks are going well in brotherly and high spirits," Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defence minister, told reporters in remarks carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. "Do not believe this international clamour."

Sheikh Ahmar told journalists on Sunday the two sides "have been able to overcome several questions where there had been differences."

He added that two sides were to "put the final touches to a definitive formula." He denied the talks, which began on Jan. 23, had reached an impasse, but said the meeting could be carried over if agreement was not reached.

An official source said in Sanaa on Saturday that Yemen had proposed forming a joint Yemeni-Saudi military committee, with the participation of Egyptian and Syrian representatives, to investigate whether Saudi Arabia had massed troops.

Diplomats in Sanaa said the Yemeni proposed appeared to have been received coolly by the Saudis who maintained there was no need at this stage for outsiders to step in.

"The last thing the Saudis would like to see, would be Egyptians or Syrians inspecting their borders," a diplomat said.



REGAINED LAND: (clockwise) Jordanian soldiers officers shake hands with Israeli officers in a brief hand to Jordan under the Oct. 26 peace treaty (see cut an old Israeli wire fence, drive in convoy through ceremony marking the handing over of Jordanian page one) (Photo by Youssef Alhas)

Sharaa holds talks in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa arrived Monday, following reports that Bahrain was urging his country to help curtail the activities of exile opposition groups close to Hizbollah and linked to the island's recent unrest.

Mr. Sharaa met with the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, and separately with the prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

The Gulf News Agency (GNA) said Mr. Sharaa delivered to Sheikh Isa a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad dealing with means of "clearing the Arab atmosphere" as well as other issues of common interest.

The official agency quoted Mr. Sharaa as affirming Syria's keenness to bolster cooperation bonds with Bahrain and praising the progress and development in these ties.

No elaboration was given, but the Lebanese daily Al Hayat reported that Bahrain was asking Syria to contain the activities of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain.

The front's secretary-general, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al Mahfouz, was one of the opposition leaders involved in fanning the Bahrain unrest that spilled into street clashes last month.

Al Hayat said Bahrain would be raising with Mr. Sharaa "the matter of the anti-Bahrain activities in Beirut." Syria has a strong power base in Lebanon.

The front's statements, telefaxed regularly to offices in Bahrain like similar statements from other Bahrain opposition groups in exile, provided information for the Bahrain protesters.

They clashed with riot police for two weeks in December and then sporadically in the following weeks in the mainly Shiite Muslim suburbs of Bahrain.

The unrest was the worst in 13 years in Bahrain, whose half-million population has an estimated 55 per cent of Muslim Shiites ruled by the Al Khalifa family which is of the mainstream Sunni sect.

In 1981, Bahrain cracked an attempted coup by pro-Iranian Shiite activists and scores of Shiites fled into exile.

Many went to Syria, which has Shiite religious sites and close ties with Iran, the heartland of Shiite Muslims. The emir visited Syria last year, following which it was reported that Damascus evicted the Bahraini exile groups to Lebanon.

Bahrain has yet to file formal charges against those arrested during the unrest, but officials have blamed neighbouring countries for instigating the unrest — a likely reference to Iran — and have also noted that Sheikh Mahfouz was close to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in Lebanon.

Arafat urges donors to support PNA

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Monday urged international donors meeting in Gaza to accelerate aid to the beleaguered Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Representatives of the World Bank and the United Nations met members of the PNA and officials in charge of development in the occupied territories to discuss plans for international aid to help build the self-rule areas.

"I hope this meeting will help us accelerate the financial and economic process which had been pledged by donors before," Mr. Arafat said during a brief appearance at the meeting.

He said donor countries must speed up the transfer of funds to help Palestinians cope with an Israeli closure

on the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed after militants killed 21 Israelis in suicide bombings.

"I hope that this (the closure) would speed up the transfer of funds in order to overcome the painful repercussions of the closure," Mr. Arafat said.

Donor countries pledged \$2.4 billion in aid to the Palestinians over five years after Israel and the PLO signed their peace agreement in 1993. Most of the money has yet to be transferred.

Economic conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have deteriorated since the PLO took charge of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank area of Jericho in May last year under the Israeli-PLO peace deal.

Economists say closures Israel imposes on the Palesti-

nian areas after each attack by militants opposed to the peace agreement have raised unemployment in the Gaza Strip to nearly 50 per cent.

Mark Taylor, a U.N. official in Gaza, said while the international meeting did not focus on the Israeli closure, it briefly addressed its impact.

"The subject of the meeting was to ask donors and Palestinians about 1994, and to find lessons to improve implementation on the ground for 1995," he said.

United Nations Under-Secretary General Terje Rod Larsen said donors will present plans to the Palestinians and discuss how to start implementing them.

"The donors will present plans of what will be done and will discuss with representatives of the Palestinian Authority how to proceed

with these plans," Mr. Larsen said.

Thirty-three delegates, including World Bank officials, are attending the two-day donors' conference in Gaza City.

Mr. Larsen, the U.N. coordinator in Gaza, said the delegates would talk with members of Mr. Arafat's government, including Economics Minister Ahmad Qouriea and Housing Minister Zakaria Agha.

"The aim of the meeting... is to see what we have done so far in the donor effort and make assessments of what... has not been done," Mr. Larsen told reporters.

Mr. Arafat's government formed a ministerial committee earlier this month apparently as an attempt to bring greater transparency to government spending.

Russians keep up bombing of Grozny suburbs

GROZNY (R) — Russian forces shelled the southern suburbs of the battered Chechen capital Grozny on Monday and moved more troops and armour towards a city largely destroyed in weeks of fierce fighting.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted government officials as saying the armed forces were preparing for a final attack on the city to clear out the remaining Chechen rebels.

Civil engineer Lechar Khaturiev, who left Grozny on Monday, said the Russians had shelled suburbs as well as the rural community of Novy Aldy on the southern edge of the city.

"This is just a rural community — cows, old people and children, there are no fighters there. It is simply barbaric," the 41-year-old said.

He said the troops, sent in on Dec. 11 to crush Chechenya's independence

bid, were maintaining pressure on the southern suburb of Chernorechye. Refugees spoke of many wrecked buildings and said a sanatorium had been reduced to rubble.

A Russian armoured column comprising at least 22 vehicles, including rocket-launching trucks, rumbled across fields on the border between Chechenya and the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia. It was heading towards Grozny.

Rag-tag bands of Chechen fighters have put up fierce resistance and Russia has so far been unable to bring the region fully under its control.

Officials from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, just back from a fact-finding trip to the rebel region, said there had been reports of human rights violations from both sides both before and during the conflict.

But they could not confirm newspaper reports of systematic torture in Russian camps holding Chechen prisoners.

Chechenya, a mountainous area on Russia's southern rim, declared independence in 1991. But Moscow, fearing the breakup of the vast Russian Federation, refuses to recognise the largely Muslim region as a separate state.

A senior aide to President Boris Yeltsin said the crisis had encouraged other regions to press for more freedom from Moscow and warned of trouble to come.

"While Russian troops are fighting for (Russia's) integrity in Chechenya, behind their backs relations between the centre and Russia's component states are sliding towards chaos," Leonid Smirnyagin told ITAR-TASS news agency.

The mainly Muslim ethnic Republic of Tatarstan, which has already won significant

autonomy from Moscow, sent 12 heavy trucks loaded with humanitarian aid to Ingushetia.

The small region of Chechnya west of Moscow has declared its conscripts will not be allowed to leave the region.

"The Chechen crisis must motivate the Russian authorities to insist effectively on the superiority of federal laws," said Mr. Smirnyagin, an expert on regional policy.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev warned at the weekend that his forces could take their struggle to Russian cities if Moscow did not stop attacks on Grozny. He told a German newspaper the war could last for 50 years.

The Kremlin dismissed Mr. Dudayev's threat although Ivan Rybkin, head of the state Duma (Lower House of Parliament), said adequate steps should be taken to avert any possible threat.

Rabin wants PLO action

(Continued from page 1)

tered Monday that Israel has broken promises to curb construction in Jewish West Bank settlements and to release more Palestinian security prisoners.

Palestinian Economics Minister Ahmad Qouriea, one of the architects of the 1993 autonomy accord, said Israeli-Palestinian relations were "highly volatile."

"We are telling the Israelis that... without troops pulling out of the towns of the West Bank, without the transfer of all authorities to the Palestinian government, there will be no peace," he told students at the Islamic Institute, a West Bank college raided last week as part of an army sweep.

He refused comment when asked whether the Palestinian Authority would respond to Israel's demands for a crackdown on militants.

Mr. Rabin's remarks to the students seemed aimed at trying to ease a tense Israeli public in the aftermath of last

week's attack. Newspaper polls indicated that 50 per cent of Israelis favour suspending talks with the Palestinians because of the growing violence.

The key Palestinian architect of the autonomy accord has charged that the Palestinian self-rule authorities have failed so far to implement the agreement.

"The premises (of the agreement) are not encouraging so far," Mahmoud Abbas told the London-based Arabic-language weekly Al Majalla received Monday in Beirut.

"I'm opposed to current measures, to repression and the muzzling of the press as well as other security measures implemented daily in the autonomous territories," said Mr. Abbas.

"I'm not a member of the (Palestinian) opposition but I must state clearly so as not to be misunderstood that the Palestinian self-rule authorities have failed," he added.

Mr. Abbas, who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, stressed that his 35-year-old friendship with Mr. Arafat was still strong.

"But this does not mean that we can't disagree on methods," he said.

Last week Mr. Abbas called for a freeze in Palestinian-Israeli autonomy talks to review the situation and called for democracy to be established in the self-rule areas.

The head of the Islamic Jihad, which claimed the double suicide bombing Monday of "the biggest military attack ever inside Palestine," and promised more.

Fathi Shkaki, in an interview with the Independent conducted in his office in Damascus, denied having personally ordered the Netanya bombings.

He refused to say whether he had advance warning of the bombings, but conceded he knew one of the bombers personally since the man was a boy.

And he described how the two Islamic Jihad men had cased the bus stop in Netanya

and planned to detonate themselves seconds apart so the second blast would cut down any Israeli soldiers running to the aid of colleagues hit by the first.

There would be more such attacks in the coming weeks, he said, adding, "We will continue our struggle."

Dr. Shkaki, a physician who worked in Jerusalem's Augusta Princess hospital before Israel expelled him in 1988, laughed at reports that the U.S. was to cut off Islamic Jihad's funding in America.

"We don't have any assets in America or in any European country," he said.

His organisation's suicide bombings, Dr. Shkaki told the Independent, were merely the evolution of a long struggle.

COLUMN

High-flyers get down at the brainstormers' ball

DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP)

The sight of Sweden's schoolboyish former Premier Carl Bildt gyrating vigorously to be a camped-up version of Prince's "Kiss" would attract at least passing comment in most situations. Especially when the sweaty gyrations were being performed amidst a sea of fellow international politicians, Nobel Prize winners and presidents of multi-nationals. Extraordinary, one might say. I didn't think he was like that. You might even get a camera out and take a picture. Not so at the Brainstormers' Ball. The ball was the social climax of the six-day talkfest — or brainstorming — to use the official terminology — that is the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in this chic Swiss ski resort.

Some 1,500 of the world's most important movers and shakers have been here since last Thursday to discuss the world's most pressing problems — and perhaps to have a little bit of fun. The occasion came Saturday night, when WEF founder and President Dr. Klaus Schwab — known as "the good doctor" — invited them all to a spectacular ball in the basement of the Davos Congresshaus. Everyone was there, and no-one was taking pictures of each other. Mr. Schwab, the regal host, received them all personally at the top of sweeping stairs before they plunged into the depths of the party. "I came every year, he always makes a point of greeting everyone personally at the big Saturday night do," said a bejewelled power spouse, accompanying her black-tie high-flyer husband. There was something for everyone. In the main hall the young ones were strutting their stuff to Prince and such like. Mr. Bildt, one of the co-chairmen of this year's Davos meeting, was much in evidence. For the more adventurous — or sophisticated — there were a series of themed anti-chambers — Big Band, the South Africa room, the Egyptian Pyramids — where you could take your pick of ethnic food, music and conversation. Preferences of tone were clear: EU External Relations Commissioner Hans Van Den Broek could be seen propped thoughtfully against a pillar in the jazz lounge. Booker Prize winning author Ben Okri, a ubiquitous presence at this year's meeting, appeared to be undecided between the thrash in the main hall and the Big Band room. Above all the mood was one of relaxation after the rigours of three days of brainstorming.

"You've got to let your hair down sometimes," said a sari-clad Indian woman, gyrating with surprising enthusiasm. The whole thing — one of the main perks for which participants at the Davos meeting pay \$17,000 each to attend — eventually began to wind down in the early hours.

Zurich set to shut down 'needle park'

ZURICH (R) — "Day X" is approaching for "needle park". Switzerland's biggest city plans a final crackdown in February on a violent open-air drugs market that stubbornly defied an earlier bid to shut it down. Authorities are determined to close a notorious drug-dealing region near the city's world-ranked financial centre. They have lined up police reinforcements, built 120 new jail cells for dealers and set up a holding centre for addicts, mostly Swiss from other towns who will be forced home. Zurich officials and residents hope the deployment of hundreds of police and more treatment centres will guarantee success after a 1992 clamp-down only pushed drugs market to a new location. On a still-secret "Day X" sometime in February, police will seal off the market at the unused Letten Rail Station. Unlike two years ago, special patrols will operate in much of the city to prevent a new open drugs scene from flowering elsewhere, a task expected to last month. "It's scary now. You have to be careful when you go out at night," said one young woman who lives in a residential area bordering the abandoned rail station on the Letten River.

Toddler dies after being slapped by older brother

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-year-old child, who was listed in critical condition at Palestine Hospital on Monday after being slapped by her brother, died the same day, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

According to the PSD report the child was slapped by her 20-year-old brother because she was crying.

The report said that the mother of the child went to work and left the toddler with her older brother. When the mother returned home, she found her daughter in poor health

and brought her to the emergency room at Palestine Hospital.

In his testimony to police, the brother, who was placed in police custody pending investigation, said that he did not intend to kill his sister and that he only slapped her to keep her quiet.

He told police that after he slapped the child, she fell asleep on his shoulder until their mother returned home.

An official, at Palestine Hospital told the Jordan Times that when the victim was admitted, she was in critical condition, and "attempts to save the baby's life failed," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak to visit Washington soon

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is to visit the United States soon, amid a dispute with Washington over nuclear curbs. Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif said Sunday, without giving a date. Egypt is refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel does the same. But Mr. Sherif, quoted by the official Middle East News Agency, quoted Mr. Mubarak as telling a meeting of the ruling National Democrats that relations with Washington were founded on frankness and respect, but that Egypt did not submit to pressure of whatever kind.

Guards fire on Palestinian prisoners

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has suspended an officer and reprimanded guards who unleashed a 20-minute barrage of gunfire at protesting Palestinian prisoners, wounding two, military officials said Monday. About 20 guards fired, mostly in the air, after 600 prisoners threw stones, empty bottles, shoes and iron bars during a Jan. 8 protest against living conditions in the Fara prison in Nabulus on the occupied West Bank. The officer in charge has been suspended and his staff have been reprimanded "for acting against" instructions.

France urges clemency over Morocco sentence

PARIS (AFP) — French Defence Minister Francois Leotard called Sunday on Morocco's King Hassan II to commute death sentences handed down by a Fez tribunal against two French citizens for an attack. "I hope King Hassan II will not stand by the execution despite the seriousness of the crimes," Mr. Leotard told French television station TF1. Noting that "we have abolished the death sentence in France," Mr. Leotard said Paris hoped the sentences would be commuted to prison terms.

Rebel Kurds say they killed 2 Iranians

ANKARA (R) — Two Iranians found dead in Turkey after being abducted two weeks ago were killed by separatist Kurds in a "reckoning," the Anatolia news agency said on Monday. An unidentified person who telephoned Istanbul newspapers and television stations on Sunday said the double murder was committed by the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), seeking a separate state in southeastern Turkey. The bodies of two men, named as Asker Simitko, 42, and Jibades Ecmajit, 49, were found in Istanbul suburb Silivri, 75 kilometres from where they had been forced into a car on Jan. 15, the agency said on Sunday.